*The pale bears are quiet in the capital. Only Ishioka in the fields of Nara knows the shape of the sea that divides Saketaoki into two and is the reason for the presence of Arai at Tomizaki, which nurtures the Matsurou Ehime. The rocks that have fallen from the lofty mountain of Sanuki become the thorns of autumn that grow in the shimmering palace. The birds of virtue are gathered around the horse chestnuts, and the pears are peeping out from the castle where the soldiers generally gather. From the northern island of Saizaki, the fragrance is like spreading roots, and the hill where a thousand deer smile is terribly silent. But God is truly in the east.

青ざめた熊は京においては静かなり。和奈の野にある石岡のみぞ知る、佐けた沖をふたつに分ける形こそ、まつろう媛をはぐくむ富崎中えに新井あり。三吹の高き山からはがれた岩では、きらめく宮に滋る秋こそ茨となる。徳のまつわる島は栃にまとまり、兵がおおむね群れる城からもがれる梨よ。北の埼島より香りはしゃにむに広がる根のごとく、千の鹿がはころぶ阪は、しかしながらひどく口さがなく、神はまにまに東にあられる。

CAN YOU SOLVE THIS CODE?

THE ANSWER IS IN 47 PAGES!



THAT IS...

...IF YOU CAN SURVIVE UNTIL THEN!

CIPHER ACADEMY!

TIME PASSED, AND IN MODERN JAPAN...

...A NEW SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED TO DEAL WITH THE NEXT GREAT WAR...

DURING WORLD WAR II, THE U.S. SELECTED TALENTED WOMEN FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY...

...TO FORM A CRYPTANALYSIS UNIT TO ANALYZE CLASSIFIED COMMUNICATIONS...

...CREATING THE BASIS FOR WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS THE NSA (NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY).

CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 1: World War IV Will Be Fought With Pencils and Paper

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki

CIPHER
ACADEMY

PLOTS BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD WILL BE EXPOSED FROM THE HOME FRONT!

FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, YOU WILL GO ON A CODE-SOLVING SPREE, CRACKING CODE AFTER CODE AFTER CODE!

YES, MA'AM!!

...BUT THEY'RE MILITARY UNIFORMS! THIS IS A HARD-CORE MILITARY ACADEMY!

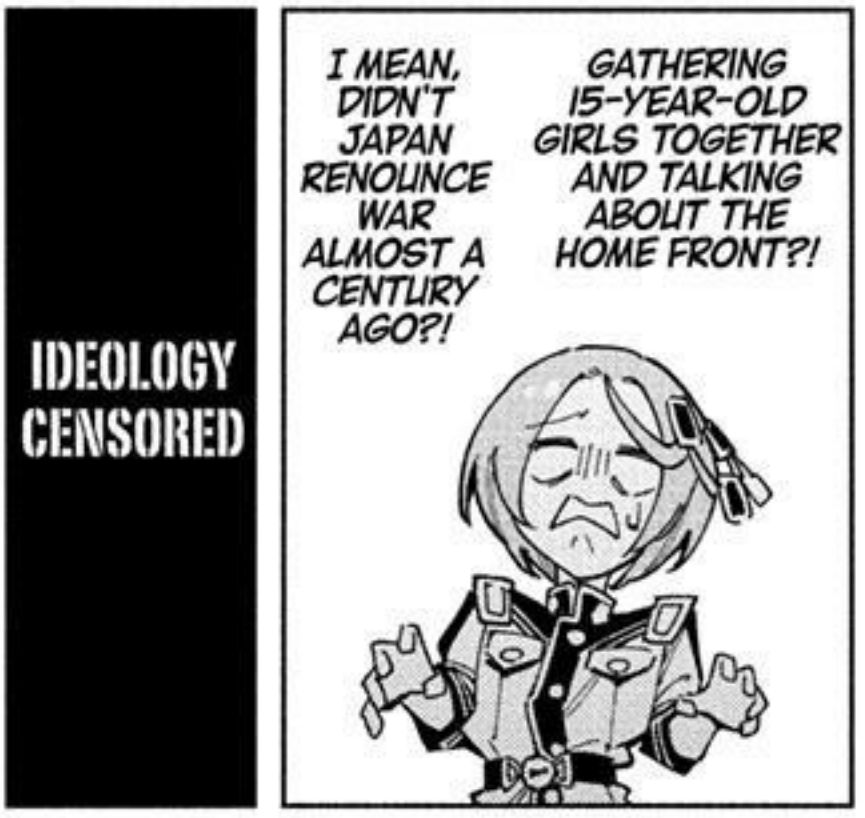
AND HERE I THOUGHT THIS WAS GOING TO BE A PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL CUZ THE UNIFORMS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS INCLUDED PANTS...

I ENDED UP GETTING INTO THE MOST PREPOSTEROUS SCHOOL..!

...

Translation: Kumar Sivasubramanian
Lettering: Steve Outro

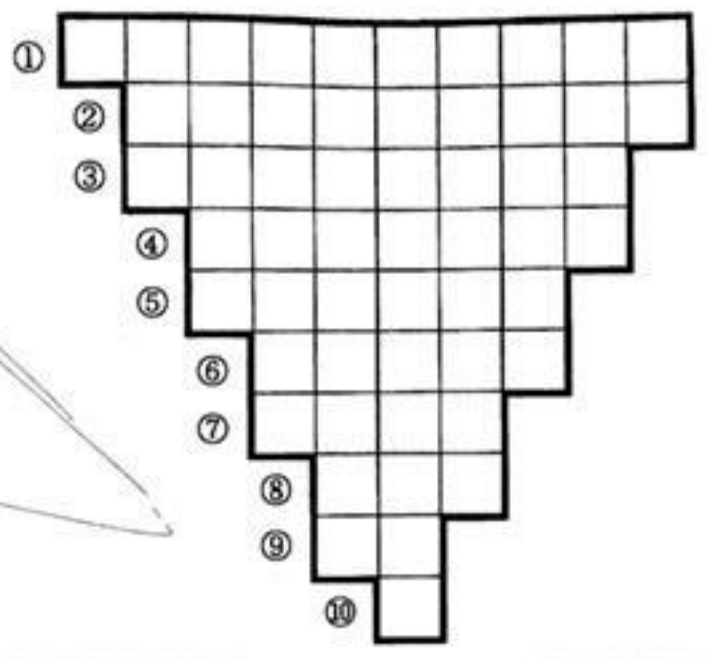




Q.01

Difficulty Level: ★★☆☆☆

Self-Introduction Crossword



Across Clues

① A(n)_____with _____ _____
② _____you like for _____ _____
③ Likes_____ _____
④ Another word for_____ _____
⑤ _____in the _____ _____
⑥ _____do this _____
⑦ A(n)_____style of_____ _____
⑧ Use this to_____ _____
⑨ The _____ of _____ _____
⑩ Another word for _____ _____

Down Clues

☆ What is your name?

_____

...INTRO-DUCING OUR-SELVES WITH CROSS-WORDS?!

WE'RE...

SKRIT カリカリカリカリ!! SKRIT

HOW CAN EVERYONE JUST DIVE INTO AN UNINTELLIGIBLE ASSIGNMENT LIKE THIS WITHOUT ANY HESITATION?!

WHAAAAA?!

カリカリカリカリ

SKRIT

カリカリ

SKRIT

カリカリ

SKRIT

HUH?

HUH?

FINISHED.

!!

THEY DID THESE THINGS WAY BEFORE MY TIME! LIKE DURING THE PERIOD OF RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH!

I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY DONE A CROSSWORD PUZZLE BEFORE...






SHE'S BEAUTIFUL...

THERE WAS ANOTHER PATH OPEN TO YOU.

BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THIS SCHOOL?

I'D EXPECT NO LESS OF YOU.

THAT WAS FAST... OH, BUT OF COURSE...

I'M HERE TO GIVE IT A KICK IN THE ASS.

PEACE HAS MADE THIS COUNTRY COMPLACENT, AND IT'S TIME TO...

SPEECH CENSORED

...AT CIPHER ACADEMY ISN'T SO DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF A REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL.

ざわ MURMUR

ざわ MURMUR MURMUR ざわ

MURMUR ざわ

WELL, I WAS COMPLETELY BEWILDERED BY THAT ASSIGNMENT...

...BUT IN THE END, THE CUR-RICULUM...

ARITHMETIC

(INCLUDING ALL HIGHER MATHEMATICS)

LANGUAGE ARTS

(FROM THE EIGHT MOST COMMON LANGUAGES TO ANCIENT JAPANESE AND CLASSICAL LITERATURE)

SOCIAL STUDIES

(GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, GEOPOLITICS, LAW, ECONOMICS)

SCIENCE

(CHEMISTRY, GEOLOGY, PHYSICS, ANATOMY, ASTRONOMY, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING)

MUSIC

(BAND PRACTICE)

BLAAT

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(INCLUDING FIRST AID AND SURVIVAL SKILLS)

(IN THE LIBRARY)

AFTER CLASSES

...HAVEN'T FINISHED THAT ASSIGN-MENT FROM THE FIRST DAY.

I STILL...

NO. IT ACTUALLY IS COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT.

Across Clues

Aim JOB with

Style of

Another Writer for

Likes

do this

You like to

ARE CROSS-WORDS SUPPOSED TO BE THIS HARD?

Across Clues

Down Clues

PEOPLE BACK DURING THE BUBBLE ECONOMY DAYS MUST HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLE!

HMM...

Aim JOB with

you like to

THE REASON I CAME TO THIS SCHOOL...

SLAM

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

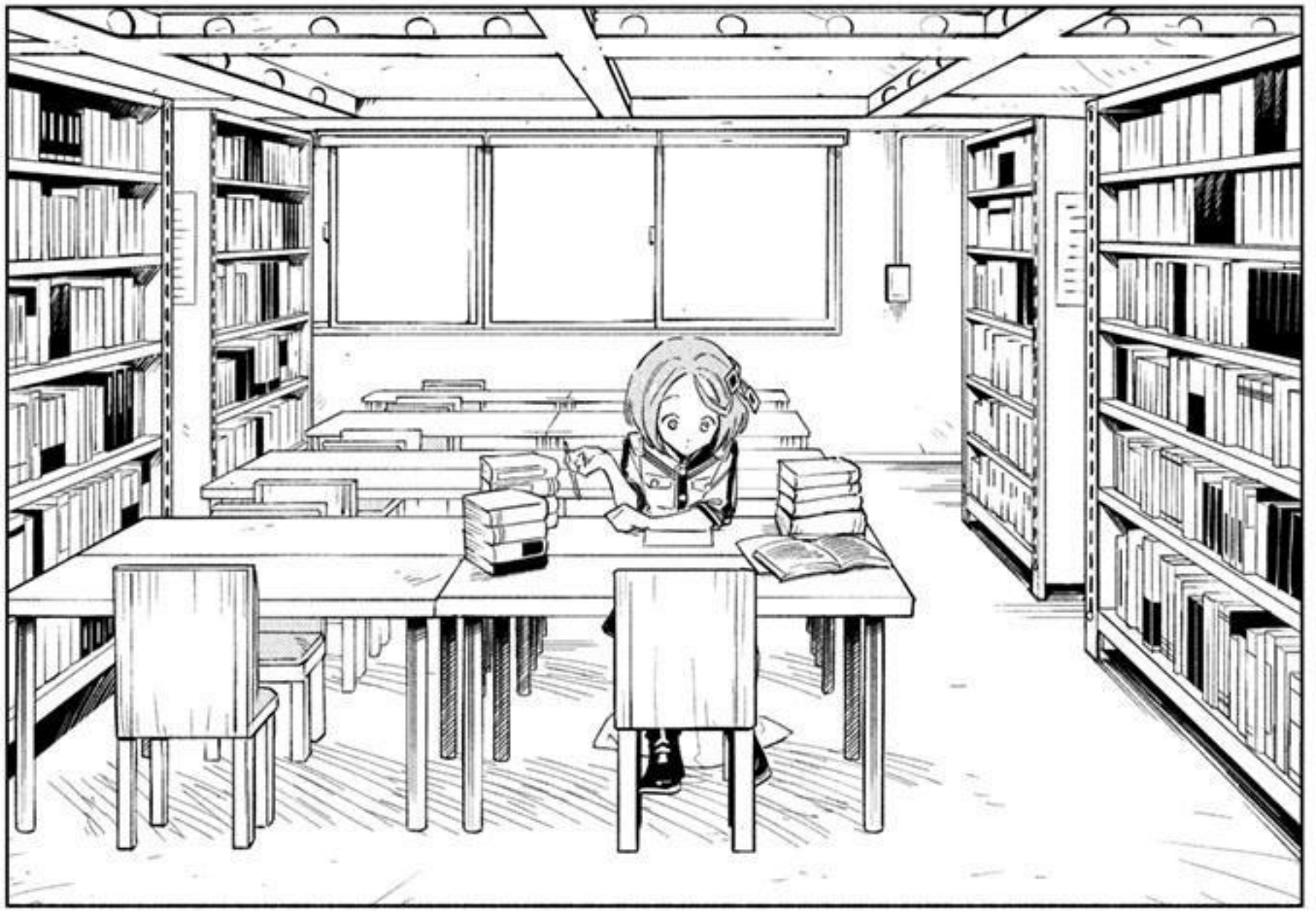

H...
HELP ME HIDE!






ダ ダ
TMP
ダ
TMP
ダ
TMP
ダ
TMP
ダ
TMP
ダ
TMP
ダ
TMP


SHAH
!!




A LITTLE GIRL IN A WHITE COAT AND GLASSES, FOR INSTANCE.
HAS ANYBODY COME IN HERE...?


I'M THE ONLY ONE USING THE LIBRARY. DID YOU NEED SOME-THING?
HUH... TOSHIISAI-SAN?


NOPE. NO WHITE COAT AND GLASSES.
NOT EVEN A BLACK COAT AND NO GLASSES...
Or a giant man.


I SEE... THANK YOU. SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU.
BY THE WAY...
SHFー ッ---
...HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
コツ CLOP
コツ CLOP


YOUNG MISS... THAT'S YOUR CLASSMATE.
THE ONE WHO SITS IN FRONT OF YOU.
IN FRONT OF ME?
I DON'T REMEMBER.

IF THAT'S THE CASE...

WHY IS THERE A BOY AT CIPHER ACADEMY?

ACTUALLY, TOSHUSAI-SAMA, CIPHER ACADEMY ISN'T AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL.

THESE DAYS...

...IT'S NOT IDEAL FOR GIRLS TO BE THE ONLY ONES BREAKING CODES.

SO THEY'RE ADMITTING...

...A *TOKEN* BOY TO EACH CLASS.

ALL RIGHT THEN, *PERSON-WHO-SITS-IN-FRONT-OF-ME...*

HMPH... TOKEN INDEED.

IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE THAT LITTLE GIRL...

NO, NEVER MIND.

I CAN'T COUNT ON SOMEONE WHO CAN'T DO HOMEWORK THAT SIMPLE.

BOY OR GIRL...

PHEW!

YOU SAVED ME!

バァン...

SLAM

THAT VILLAINOUS YOUNG LADY DOESN'T GIVE UP EASILY.

IF SHE'D CAUGHT ME, I'D BE HALF-DEAD BY NOW.

THANKS, *PERSON-WHO-SITS-IN-FRONT-OF-ME!*

OR SHOULD I SAY *PERSON-WHO-SITS-BEHIND-ME?*

THE NAME'S IROHAZAKA.

IROHA IROHAZAKA, FIRST-YEAR, CLASS 1-A.

WELL, THANK YOU, IROHA-ZAKA-KUN.

I'M KOGOE HORA-GATOGE, FIRST-YEAR, CLASS 1-M.

CAN'T SAY THAT TOO LOUDLY THOUGH.

...ALLYING YOURSELF WITH SOMEONE YOU'VE NEVER MET BEFORE INSTEAD OF YOUR CLASSMATE?

ARE YOU GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT THOUGH?

I MEAN...

THIS SCHOOL HAS CLASSES GOING ALL THE WAY UP TO "M"?

CLASS M...?

THAT'S ELEMENTARY, ISN'T IT?

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO HELP SOMEONE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I DON'T REGRET WHAT I DID.

LIKE A WANTED WAR CRIMINAL OR SOMETHING.

ACCOUNT RETRACTED

I COULD BE A REAL BAD PERSON, YOU KNOW?

IS THIS THE HOMEWORK THAT VILLAIN WAS TALKING ABOUT?

パーン

WHP

YOU'RE A KIND PERSON, IROHAZAKA-KUN. I LOVE THAT!

AND I'LL REPAY MY DEBT TO YOU RIGHT NOW!

...OR AS A CLASSMATE.

THAT HAUGHTY GIRL DOESN'T THINK OF ME AS A BOY...

WOULD YOU...

...LIKE ME TO DO THIS FOR YOU?

HUH?

JOB

with SHIP

you like for

PRINTOUTS IN THIS DAY AND AGE? WHAT A JOKE.

AND THIS PLACE IS CALLED...A LIBRARY?

PAPER DICTION-ARIES SEEM WEIRD TOO.

ぱしっ FWP

I APPRE-CIATE THE SENTIMENT, BUT...

...IF I DON'T SOLVE IT MYSELF, WHAT'S THE POINT?

WELL! NO NEED TO BE SO SERIOUS.

PLEASE AT LEAST ACCEPT THIS!

SHUF

SHUF

PUT THESE ON AND YOU'LL *LOOK REALLY WISE.*

TRENDY GLASSES! STYLISH, AREN'T THEY?

THANK YOU...

...

THAT'S TRUE. OKAY, I'LL TAKE THEM.

HM?

AND WEARING GLASSES CAN'T BE CALLED CHEATING.

OH! UM...

I'D BETTER GET OUTTA HERE! BUH-BYE!

ALL RIGHT THEN, THAT MAKES US EVEN!

HORA-GATOGE-SAN!

WHY CIPHER ACADEMY ...?

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS SCHOOL? KOGOE ...

TUNK

#9

CALL ME KOGOE.

AND CAN I CALL YOU IROHA?

SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

THERE'S NO TUITION...

...AND NO ENTRANCE EXAMS.

SO THEY'VE ALLOWED TOKEN BOYS TO BE ADMITTED.

I...

WHAT ABOUT YOU, IROHA?

...

OH? WELL...

I CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, BUT...

AND I HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO...

I GUESS THAT'S WHY...

I'M HERE BECAUSE YOU CAN BECOME A HERO WITHOUT RESORTING TO VIOLENCE.

THAT'S MY REASON!

THE JAPANESE NAVY'S SYSTEM 97 CIPHER "PURPLE"...

...HAD BEEN DECIPHERED BEFORE THE WAR BEGAN.

THE ALLIED FORCES COUNTER-ATTACKED AFTER DECIPHERING "ENIGMA"...

...GERMANY'S ONCE-PRIZED CODE-MAKING MACHINE.



...TO RECRUIT FEMALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN CODE UNITS.

...BEHIND THE SCENES, A COMPE-TITION WAS UNFOLDING...

THERE IS ALSO THE LITTLE-KNOWN STORY THAT WHILE THE U.S. ARMY AND U.S. NAVY WERE FIGHTING ENEMY COUN-TRIES...

FROM NOW ON...

...CODE BATTLES WILL BE THE FRONT LINES OF WAR.

EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT PHYSICALLY TOUGH...

...IF YOU'RE GOOD WITH CODES, YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

GET IT? IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT USING WEAPONS ON THE FRONT LINES.

USING YOUR HEAD ON THE HOME FRONT IS A PART OF WAR TOO.

...IS MY DREAM STRATEGY. ☆

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WINNING WARS WITHOUT FIGHTING...

GRRP

Fight

LET'S TAKE ON THIS ASSIGN-MENT!

OKAY!

WHEN YOU'RE BREAKING CODES, YOU'VE GOTTA DO IT WITH A SMILE ON YOUR FACE!

HM...

MAYBE... I DO LOOK WISE...

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE...

... CHANGING MY APPEAR-ANCE CHANGES THE REALITY...

!!

HUH?!

WHAT IS THIS?!

WHA...

Self-Introduction Crossword

①	S	H	I	P	W	R	I	G	H	T
②		B	R	I	L	L	I	A	N	T
③		B	O	O	K	W	O	R	M	
④			H	A	T	C	H	E	T	
⑤			A	E	R	I	A	L		
⑥				G	R	A	Z	E		
⑦				D	A	D	A			
⑧					I	N	K			
⑨					I	N				
⑩						I				

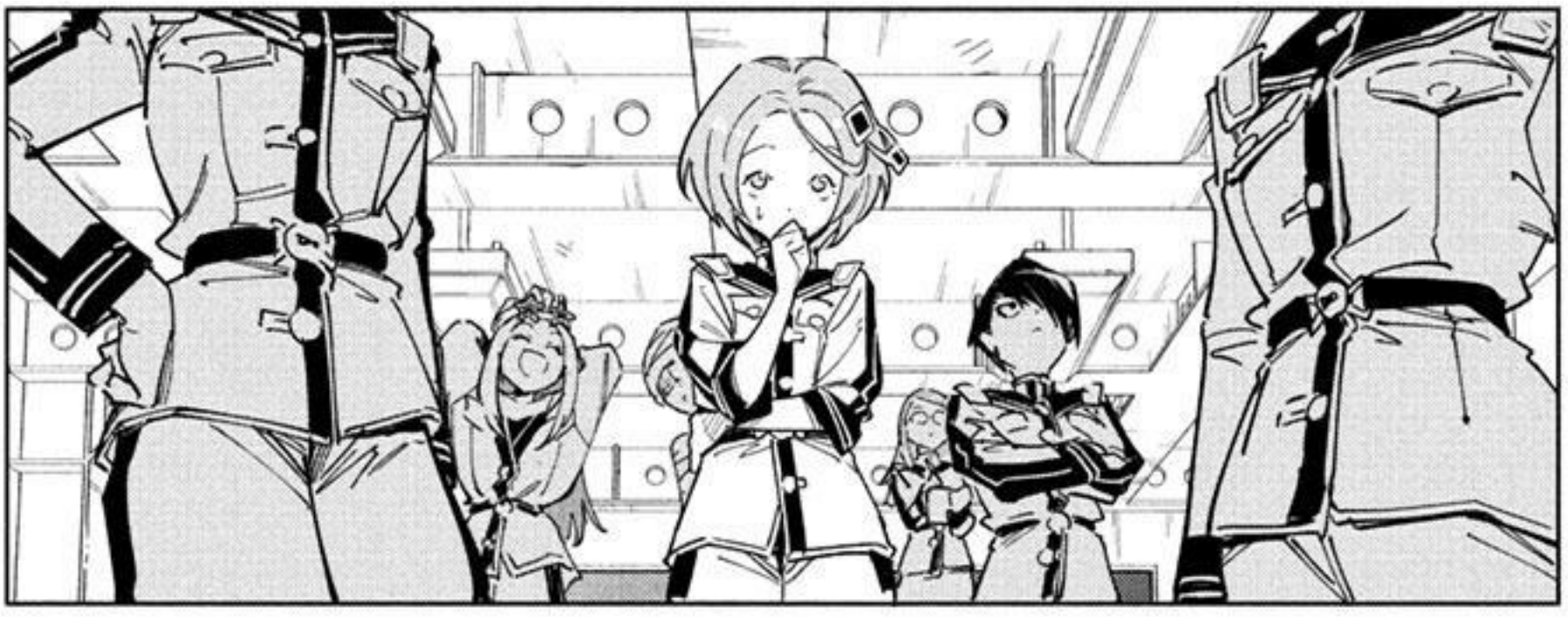
Across Clues

① A(n) JOB with SHIPS — SHIPWRIGHT
② WORD you like for PRAISE — BRILLIANT
③ Likes READING — BOOKWORM
④ Another word for AX — HATCHET
⑤ PERFORMED in the SKY — AERIAL
⑥ COWS do this — GRAZE
⑦ A(n) STYLE style of ART — DADA
⑧ Use this to WRITE — INK
⑨ The OPPOSITE of OUT — IN
⑩ Another word for ME — I

Down Clues

☆ What is your name?

IROHA



DID YOU GET HELP FROM A FRIEND?

NO, NO. I WANTED TO PRAISE YOU.

YOU SEEMED OUT OF YOUR ELEMENT, SO I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

IROHA-ZAKA! CAN I SPEAK TO YOU?

MA'AM!

I'M SORRY I SUB-MITTED THE WORK LATE...

AND KEEP MAKING NEW FRIENDS!

I SEE! WELL, KEEP AT IT AND TAKE ON EVERY PUZZLE THAT COMES YOUR WAY!

HEH HEH...

YUP... YOU COULD SAY THAT.

FWIP

YES, MA'AM...

ビク JOLT

IROHA IROHAZAKA.

I SHOULD INCLUDE THE "KUN" SUFFIX, RIGHT?

I'M SORRY FOR SAYING THOSE MEAN THINGS TO YOU YESTERDAY.

I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE. CAN YOU COME WITH ME FOR A MINUTE?

roduction Crossword




WE WANT TO BECOME FRIENDS. THAT'S ALL.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.

UNDER-STOOD, YOUNG MISS.

YUKA-KO.

THE PRESENTA-TION.

YOU'VE GOT TO CHOOSE THEM.

YOU SHOULD MAKE NEW FRIENDS, RIGHT?

BUT...

...WHICH BUILDS EVERY TYPE OF ARMAMENT EXCEPT NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

HEIRESS TO WEAPONS MANU-FACTURER "KICK-ATTACK PLANNING"...

HERE BEFORE YOU STANDS KYORA TOSHUSAI-SAMA.

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

THERE WAS ANOTHER PATH OPEN TO YOU.

SHE DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO BE REIN-CARNATED TO BECOME A VILLAIN ...

...MAKING HER YOUR ENEMY WILL MAKE YOUR LIFE HELL.

ON THE OTHER HAND...

MAKING FRIENDS AT *THIS ACADEMY* WITH HER WILL CAUSE YOU NO HARM.

...THE OTHER GIRL DID IT.

Especially #2.

IT'D BE TOO CLUMSY TO SAY...

...IT'S OBVIOUS YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT.

FROM WHAT I SAW YESTER-DAY...

troduction Crossword

Down Clues

WE SHOULDN'T KEEP SECRETS FROM EACH OTHER, RIGHT?

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME? WE'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?

FROM KOGOE.

YOU GOT *SOMETHING*, DIDN'T YOU?

I-IT'S...

...JUST LIKE YOU SAID...

IF SHE'D CAUGHT ME, I'D BE HALF-DEAD BY NOW.

WE HAVE TO CHOOSE OUR FRIENDS!

AND I CAN'T BE FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE WHO GANGS UP ON ME...

...AND THREATENS ME WITH VIOLENCE!

I DID THAT HOME-WORK ON MY OWN.

I'M THE TYPE WHO DOESN'T GET GOING TILL IT'S CRUNCH TIME.

AND TO TELL THE TRUTH, IT WAS ELEMEN-TARY!

FWEET

WHEN I SAID A FRIEND HELPED ME, I MEANT...

...YOU KNOW, AN IMAGIN-ARY FRIEND!

WHEN I HELP A PERSON, I DON'T REGRET IT.

AN IMAG-INARY FRIEND ...?

YOU TELL A VERY PER-SUASIVE LIE.

IT'S NOT A LIE! I'VE HAD ONE SINCE KINDER-GARTEN!

SHE THINKS I'M PERSUA-SIVE...

IF IT'S A LIE, THEN I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU ASK OF ME!

OKAY. IF YOU'RE LYING...

...FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, YOU'LL BE MY MAN-SERVANT.

HOW UNFOR-TUNATE.

AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO MAKE MY FIRST MALE FRIEND.

DO YOU THINK "FIGURE OF SPEECH" IS A TERM THAT EXISTS AT CIPHER ACADEMY?

UH... AW, GEEZ, TOSHU-SAI-SAN...

THAT WAS JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH.

SHP

H-HOW DO YOU INTEND TO PROVE I'M LYING?

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO THROW ME OFF THE ROOF...

...IS AS EASY AS RIPPING A PAGE OUT OF MY NOTEBOOK.

SHRIP

TO PROVE YOUR INABILITY DESPITE WHAT YOU SAY...

I WOULD NEVER DO SOME-THING SO BARBARIC. ALTHOUGH I COULD.



青ざめた熊は京においては静かなり。和奈の野にある石岡のみぞ知る、佐けた沖をふたつに分けるかたこそ、まつろう媛をはぐくむ富崎ゆえに新井あり。三吹の高き山からはがれた岩では、きらめく宮に滋る秋こそ茨となる。徳のまつわる鳥は栃にまとまり、兵がおおむね群れる城からもがれる梨よ。北の埼島より香りはしゃにむに広がる根のごとく、千の鹿がほころぶ阪は、しかしながらひどく口さがなく、神はまにまに東にあられる。

**The pale bears are quiet in the capital. Only Ishioka in the fields of Nara knows the shape of the sea that divides Saketaoki into two and is the reason for the presence of Arai at Tomizaki, which nurtures the Matsurou Ehime. The rocks that have fallen from the lofty mountain of Sanuki become the thorns of autumn that grow in the shimmering palace. The birds of virtue are gathered around the horse chestnuts, and the pears are peeping out from the castle where the soldiers generally gather. From the northern island of Saizaki, the fragrance is like spreading roots, and the hill where a thousand deer smile is terribly silent. But God is truly in the east.*

Q.02

Difficulty Level: ★★★★☆

1-A, Number 10
Kyora Toshusai
Born May 1

WHO AMONGST US DOES THIS CRYPTOGRAM REFER TO?

1-A, Number 3
Yukako Omomuro
Born February 2

1-A, Number 19
Tayu Yugata
Born January 4

SOLVE IT TO FIND OUT.

DIDN'T YOU SAY...

...YOU WORK BEST WHEN IT'S CRUNCH TIME?

BY YOURSELF.

I'M STILL ALIVE... SO FAR...

IS IT SUPPOSED TO SPELL OUT ONE OF THEIR NAMES?

OR THEIR SEAT NUMBER? MAYBE WHERE THEY WERE BORN?

WHAT IS THIS...? I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF IT...

IT SEEMS LIKE SOME KIND OF COMPOSITION, BUT NOT REALLY... IT'S LIKE FAKE ANCIENT WRITING. IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

UM... IS IT OKAY IF I PUT ON MY GLASSES?

I HAVE TROUBLE READING SMALL PRINT WHEN I'M NERVOUS...

...

DO AS YOU PLEASE. THEY'RE JUST GLASSES.

THAT LONG HAIR MUST BE IN THE WAY TOO. WHY DON'T YOU TIE IT UP?

TAYU-TAN. LEND HIM ONE OF YOUR SPARE HAIR TIES.

SURE.

HERE YOU GO.

THANKS.

...

...

...

HUH?

I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM...

IS THIS KID TALKING TO HIS GLASSES...!?

FLASH

KEEENN

ICE

COLD

READING!

THE CRYPTO-GRAM APPEARS TO BE GLOWING.

WOOOOOO

THE PAPER'S GLOWING— NO.

IT'S JUST LIKE YESTER-DAY.

...IS HAPPEN-ING WITHIN THE LENSES!

SO WHAT'S GLOW-ING...

THE THREE OF THEM CAN'T SEE THIS GLOW.

THE CRYPTO-GRAM'S NOT GLOWING.

NO. IT'S NOT THAT EITHER.

BIP

BIP

BIP

BIP

IN OTHER WORDS, THESE AREN'T JUST AN ACCESSORY...

...THEY'RE SMART GLASSES!

PUT THESE ON...

...AND YOU'LL LOOK REALLY WISE.

ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT LIKE...

...CHANGING MY APPEARANCE CHANGES THE REALITY...

...REALITY HAS BEEN EXPANDED.

BUT I CAN SEE...

LOOKING CLOSELY, IT'S NOT ALL OF THE TEXT THAT'S GLOWING.

IT'S ONLY THE KANJI CHARACTERS!

青ざめた鹿は京においしは着かへなり。和奈の野にある石岡のみぞ知る、伝けた沖をふたつに分けるボこそ、まっろう嫉をはぐくむ富岐ゆえに新井あり。三吹の高き山からはがれた岩では、きらめく宮に滋る秋こそ茨となる。徳のまつわる鳥は栃にまと

YESTERDAY, IT WAS THE ONLY COLUMN I COULD SEE GLOWING.

AND I UNDERSTOOD THAT ALL I HAD TO DO WAS SOLVE THAT COLUMN.

OKAY, SO...

MUTTER

IF I PICK OUT ONLY THE KANJI...

MUTTER

!!

VWM

青熊京静和奈野石岡知佐
沖分形媛富崎新井三岐高
山岩宮滋秋茨徳鳥栃兵
城梨北埼島香広根千
神東

?

?

HM...

AS I SUSPECTED ...

熊京静和奈野石岡知佐
沖分形媛富崎新井三岐高
山岩宮滋秋茨徳鳥栃兵群
城梨北埼島香広根千鹿阪
口神東

I WONDER.

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, THEN THAT'S YOUR ANSWER, ISN'T IT?

THIS IS EVERY PREFEC-TURE...

...ISN'T IT?

IT'S BASICALLY THE FIRST KANJI OF EVERY PREFECTURE!

青熊京静和奈野石岡知佐
沖分形媛富崎新井三岐高
山岩宮滋[illegible]徳鳥栃兵群
城梨[illegible]根千鹿阪
口[illegible]

IT'S A LIST OF THE PREFEC-TURES. THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

SHUF

IF "GI" IS MIYAGI, THEN BY ELIMINATION, "MIYA" IS MIYAZAKI.

UH, THAT MEANS...

SIMILARLY, "NE" INDICATES SHIMANE, WHICH SHARES "SHIMA" WITH FUKUSHIMA...

MIYAZAKI OVERLAPS BOTH MIYAGI AND NAGASAKI, BUT...

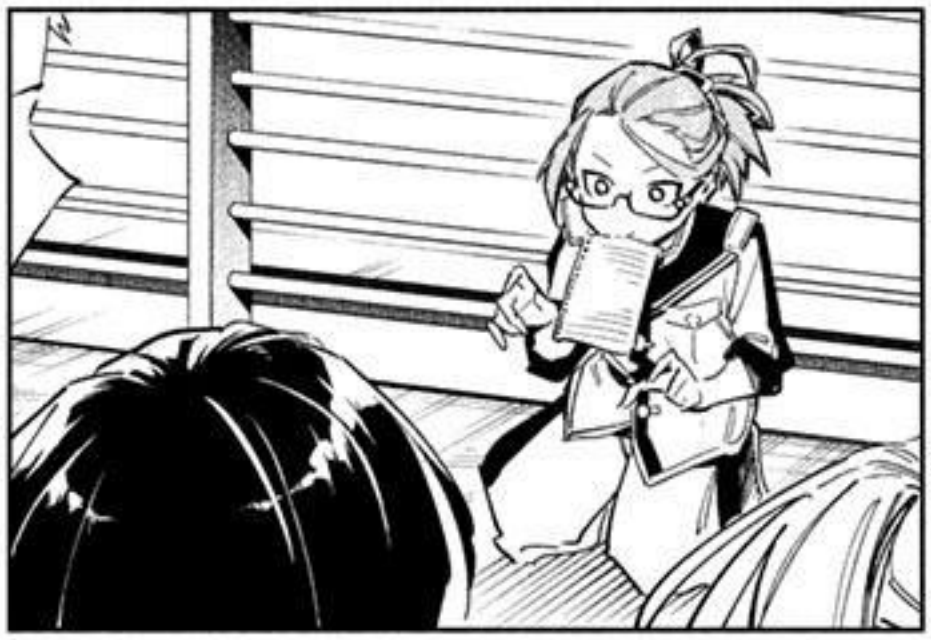
SHF

SHF

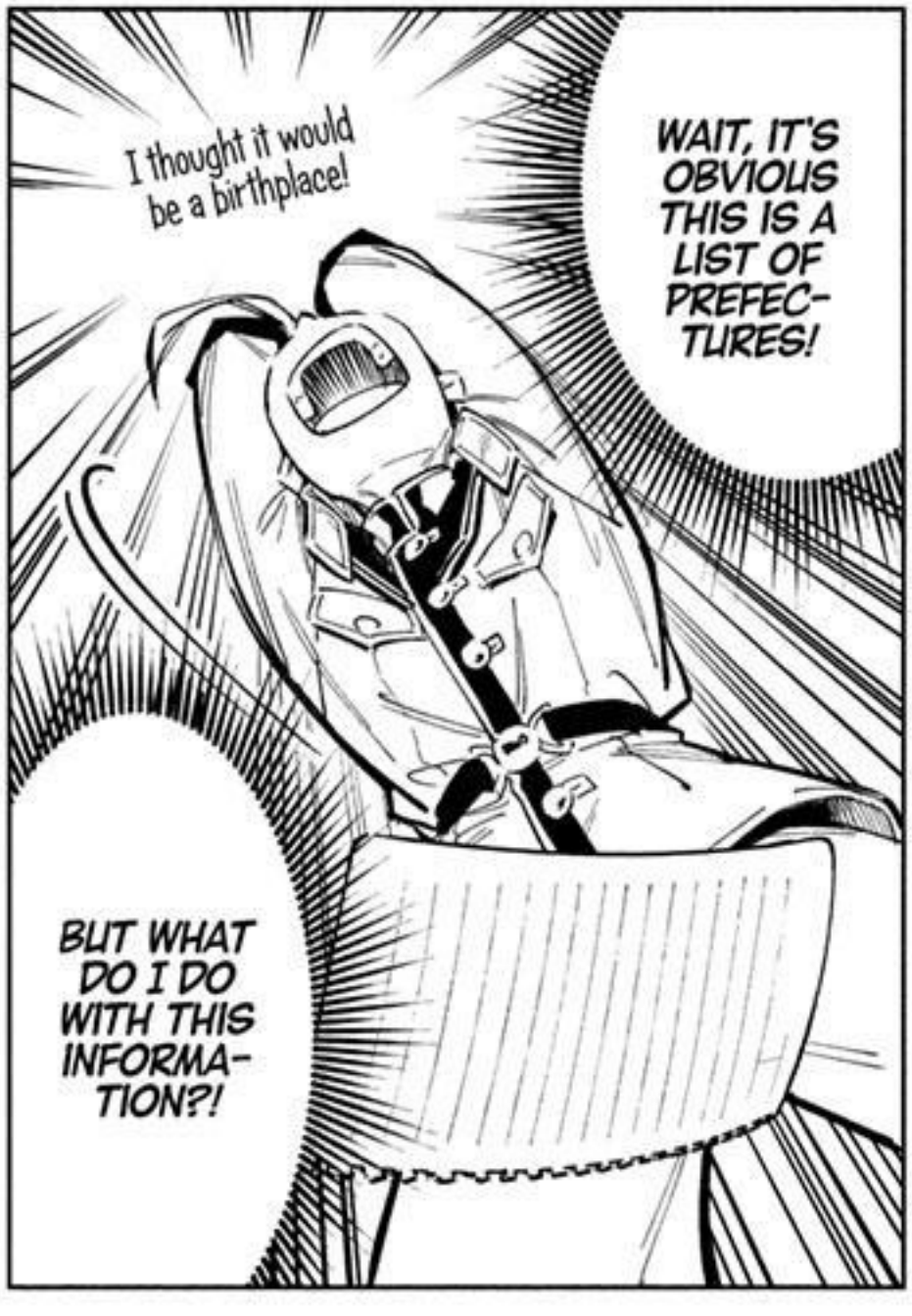
AND IN CASES WHERE MULTIPLE PREFECTURES HAVE THE SAME FIRST KANJI— LIKE WITH FUKUSHIMA, FUKUI, AND FUKUOKA— THEN IT SHIFTS TO THE SECOND KANJI.

SO "YAMA" IS NOT YAMAGATA, YAMANASHI, OR YAMAGUCHI, BUT OKAYAMA, WHICH HAS AN OVERLAPPING "OKA" WITH FUKUOKA, RIGHT?

I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM...






I thought it would be a birthplace!
WAIT, IT'S OBVIOUS THIS IS A LIST OF PREFEC-TURES!
BUT WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS INFORMA-TION?!


GOT IT!
PAH
青森 AOMORI
熊本 KUMAMOTO
京都 KYOTO
静岡 SHIZUOKA
和歌山 WAKAYAMA
奈良 NARA
長野 NAGANO
石川 ISHIKAWA
福岡 FUKUOKA
愛知 AICHI
佐賀 SAGA
沖縄 OKINAWA
大分 OITA
山形 YAMAGATA
愛媛 EHIME
富山 TOYAMA
長崎 NAGASAKI
新潟 NIIGATA
福井 MIE
三重 GIFU
岐阜 KOCHI
高知 OKAYAMA
岡山 IWATE
岩手 MIYAGI
宮城 SHIGA
滋賀 AKITA
秋田 IBARAKI
茨城 TOKUSHIMA
徳島 TOTTORI
鳥取 TOCHIGI
栃木 KOBE
兵庫 GUNMA
群馬 MIYAGI
宮城 YAMANASHI
山梨 HOKKAIDO
北海道 SAITAMA
埼玉 FUKUSHIMA
福島 KAGAWA
香川 HIROSHIMA
広島 SHIMANE
島根 CHIBA
千葉 KAGOSHIMA
鹿児島 OSAKA
大阪 YAMAGUCHI
山口 KANAGAWA
神奈川 TOKYO
東京

WITH THIS VILLAIN GIRL'S FORCEFUL PERSONALITY, SHE'D MAKE HER OWN NAME THE ANSWER, RIGHT?

I'VE GOT A ONE IN THREE PROBABILITY OF GETTING THE RIGHT ANSWER WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT...

SHOULD I JUST THROW OUT A HALF-BAKED GUESS...!?

WHAP

NO!

KEEP THINKING!

THINK CERTAINTY, NOT PROBABILITY!

I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM...

WAIT, THE SEQUENCE IS WEIRD! WHY ARE THEY IN THIS ORDER?

GIVEN HOW UNNATURAL THE TEXT IS, IT'S NOT RANDOM. THERE'S DEFINITELY A PATTERN HERE!

IS IT BY POPULATION? AREA SIZE? CLEARLY NOT EITHER OF THOSE...

長野
石川
福岡
愛知
佐賀
山

IN WHAT ORDER...

...ARE THEY LISTED IN THE FIRST PLACE ...?

IT DOES LOOK LIKE THE JIS (JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS) CODING!

IN WHICH CASE, WHAT METHOD DID THEY USE TO REORDER THIS STANDARD?

THINK, THINK, THINK, THINK!

HOW PATHETIC WOULD I BE IF I GOT THIS AWESOME BUFF BUT STILL COULDN'T SOLVE IT!

I'D SAY YOU'RE ALMOST OUT OF TIME...

...MAN-SERVANT.

JIS CODE

KYORA CODE

!!

ZOOM

BECAUSE I'LL BE CALLING YOU "MAN-SERVANT" FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

YES, I KNOW THAT'S YOUR NAME.

BUT YOU DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE, DO YOU?

IT'S IROHA IROHA-ZAKA...

...RIGHT?

THAT'S THE NAME IN THIS CRYPTOGRAM!

NO, I MEAN...

IROHA IROHAZAKA!

WERE YOU REALLY CHECKING OUT MY SELF-INTRODUCTION CROSSWORD?

OR WERE YOU PLANNING TO LAUGH AT ME, IMAGINING I'D PLAY IT SAFE AND GUESS WITH A ONE-IN-THREE CHANCE?

ALL YOU SAID WAS, "WHO AMONGST US DOES IT REFER TO?"

I NEVER IMAGINED YOU WOULD INCLUDE ME AS WELL.

!!

THERE'S ONE METROPOLIS, ONE CIRCUIT, TWO "FU" PREFECTURES, AND 43 REGULAR PREFECTURES.

IN OTHER WORDS, 47 DISTRICTS.

AND THE NUMBER 47...

...BRINGS TO MIND A CERTAIN SONG WE'VE LEARNED IN CLASSICAL LITERATURE.

BUT HOW ABOUT YOU CUT THE INSULTS OUT AND EXPLAIN HOW YOU SOLVED IT.

YOU SURE SPEAK ILL OF ME. HOW HURTFUL.

*The colors are fragrant, but they will eventually scatter
Who in our world shall always be?
The deep mountains of karma, we cross them today
And we shall not have superficial dreams, nor be deluded

いろはにほへと　ちりぬるを
わかよたれそ　つねならむ
うゐのおくやま　けふこえて
あさきゆめみし　ゑひもせず

BIP

BY ASSIGNING THE 47 HIRAGANA IN ORDER TO THE JIS-ORDERED PREFECTURES AS INITIALS...

...THEN REARRANGING THEM IN THE ORDER OF THE IROHA POEM, THAT'S WHAT YOU GET IN THIS CRYPTOGRAM! IT SEEMS THE ANCIENT WRITING WAS ACTUALLY A HINT!

あ 北海道	は 京都
い 青森	ひ 大阪
う 岩手	ふ 兵庫
え 宮城	へ 奈良
お 秋田	ほ 和歌山
か 山形	ま 鳥取
き 福島	み 島根
く 茨城	む 岡山
け 栃木	め 広島
こ 群馬	も 山口
さ 埼玉	や 徳島
し 千葉	ゆ 香川
す 東京	よ 愛媛
せ 神奈川	ら 高知
そ 新潟	り 福岡
た 富山	る 佐賀
ち 石川	れ 長崎
つ 福井	ろ 熊本
て 山梨	わ 大分
と 長野	か 宮崎
な 岐阜	よ 鹿児島
に 静岡	た 沖縄
ぬ 愛知	れ
ね 三重	そ
の 滋賀	つ

い 青森	の 滋賀
ろ 岩手	お 秋田
は 宮城	く 茨城
に 秋田	や 栃木
ほ 山形	ま 群馬
へ 福島	け 埼玉
と 茨城	ふ 千葉
ち 栃木	こ 東京
り 群馬	え 神奈川
ぬ 埼玉	て 新潟
る 千葉	あ 富山
を 東京	さ 石川
わ 神奈川	き 福井
か 新潟	ゆ 山梨
よ 富山	め 長野
た 石川	み 岐阜
れ 福井	し 静岡
そ 山梨	ゑ 愛知
つ 長野	ひ 三重
ね 岐阜	も 滋賀
な 静岡	せ
ら 愛知	ず
む 三重	
う 滋賀	

THE POEM "IROHA"!

A PANGRAM THAT USES EACH OF THE 47 CLASSICAL HIRAGANA CHARACTERS ONCE!

BIP BIP

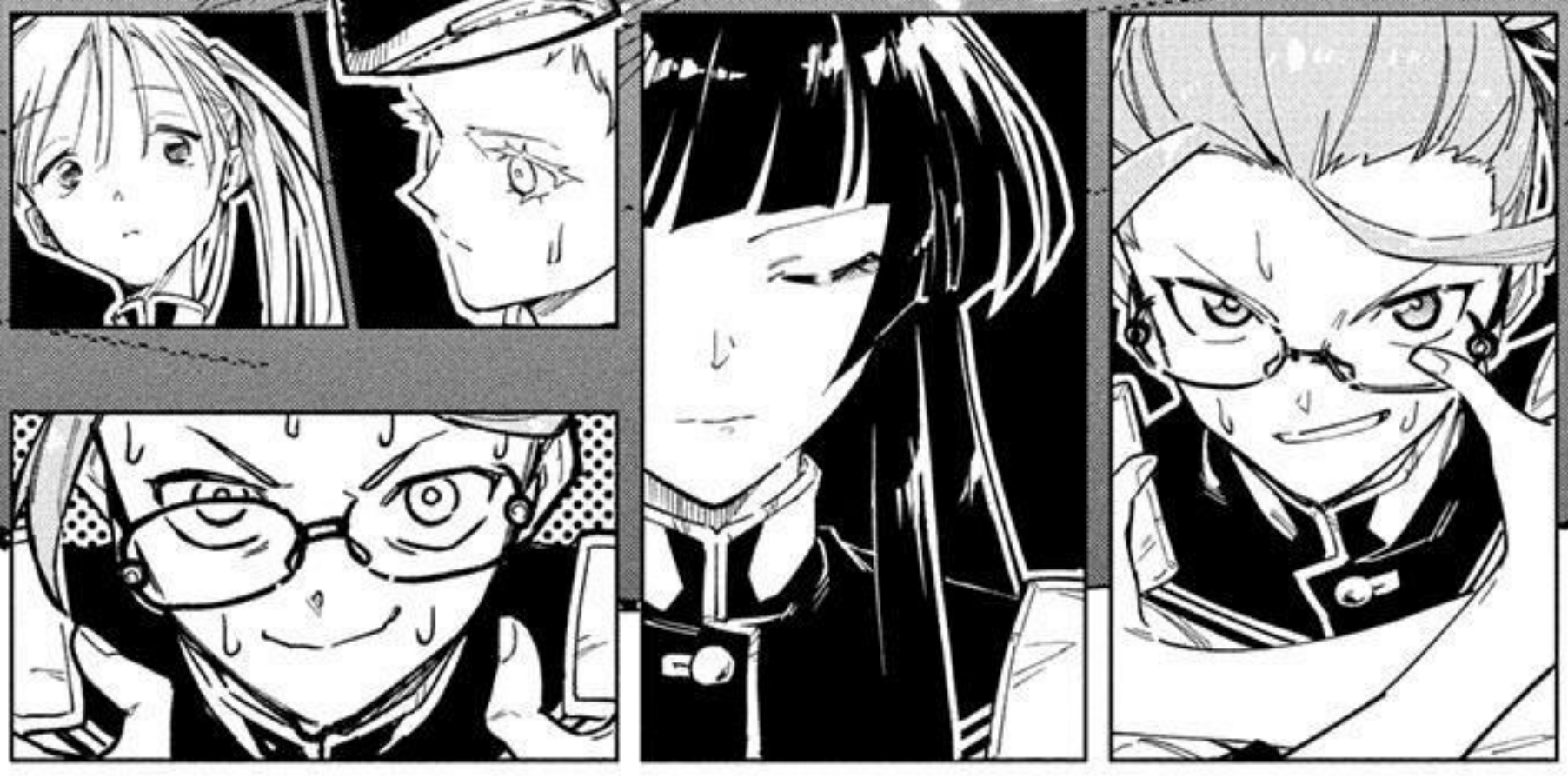
*Note: The left box is a list of prefectures in JIS order with the hiragana alphabet listed in order in the left column. The right box is the list in the cryptogram with the first syllables of "Iroha" in Japanese in the left column.

THEREFORE, THE PERSON THIS PUZZLE REFERS TO IS ME.

1-A, Number 1
Iroha Irohazaka
Born November 21

AND SOLVING THAT...

...WAS ELEMENTARY FOR ME, YOUNG MISS!



...IROHAZAKA-KUN.

PERFECT SCORE.

BRILLIANT WORK...

FWUMP

ドヤ

U-UM... TOSHUSAI-SAN.

ACTUALLY, I—

EFFORTS ...

JUST LIKE THAT LITTLE GIRL.

SPIN

IN LIGHT OF YOUR EFFORTS, I'LL GIVE YOU A PASS FOR TODAY.

STARTING TOMORROW, YOU'RE ON THE RUN FROM US.

ACCOUNT FROZEN

SO DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU BECOME MY MAIDSERVANT?

TOSHUSAI, WAIT!

YOUR PUZZLE WAS SOLVED, WHICH MEANS YOU LOST.

SHP

AND HERE I WAS FEELING SORRY FOR YOU!

WHY, YOU!

?! ?! ?! ?! ?! ?! ?!

I-IT WASN'T ME! IT WAS THE GLASS-ES—

URM URM

NO, I MEAN, MY IMAGINARY FRIEND...

ASK OF ME WHATEVER YOU WISH...

...MASTER.

SINCE YOU SEEM TO NEED NOTHING AT THIS TIME...

...PLEASE ALLOW ME TO TAKE MY LEAVE, MASTER.

...

SPEECH CENSORED

SPEECH CENSORED

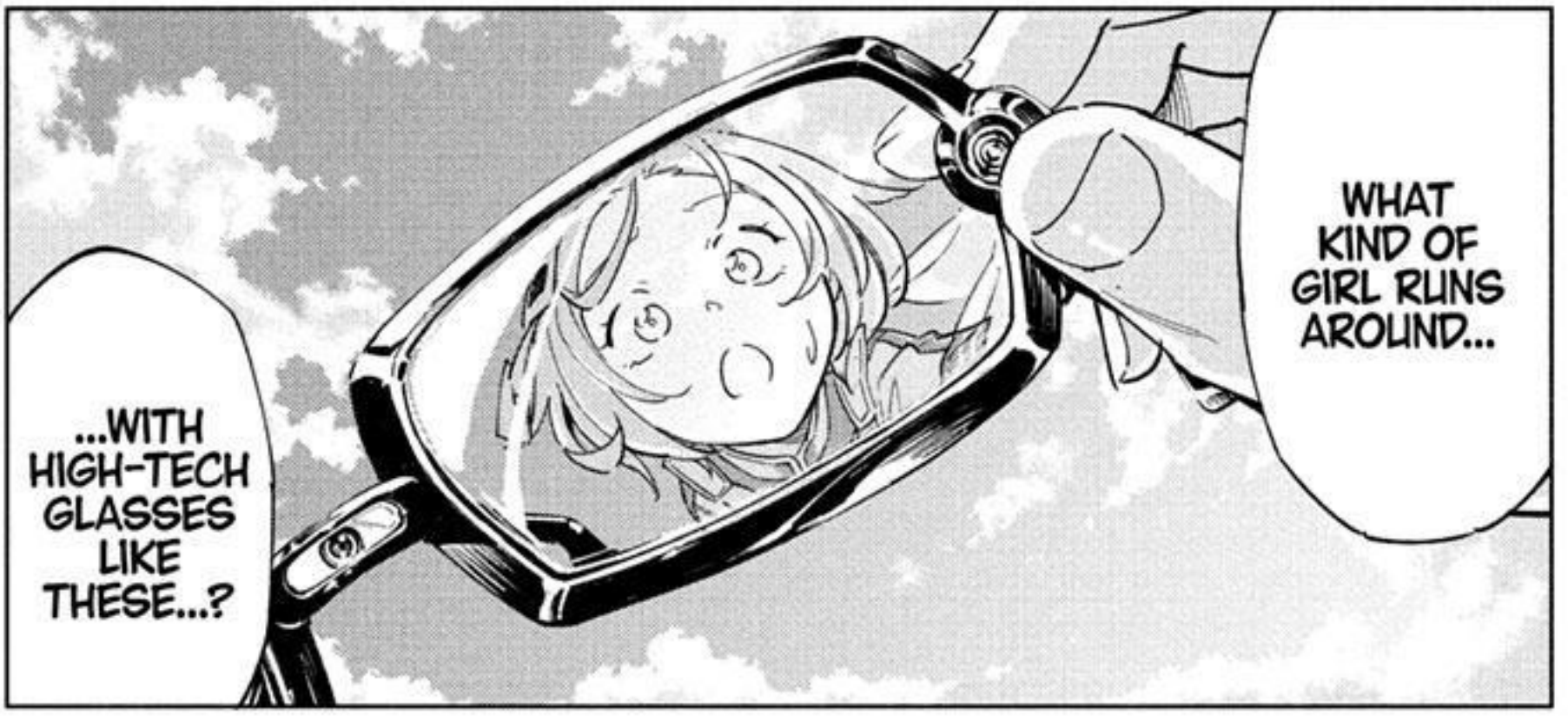
SPEECH CENSORED

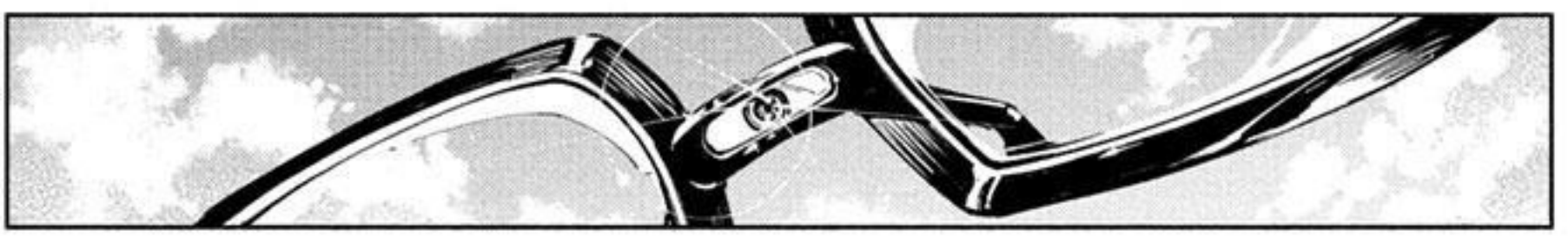
W-WHAT'S WITH THESE GLASS-ES?!

THEY CAN TALK?!

ARE THEY NOT JUST A.R., BUT A.I. TOO?!

ALL THOSE PARTING THREATS AND NOT A SINGLE PRINTABLE WORD...


WHAT KIND OF GIRL RUNS AROUND...
...WITH HIGH-TECH GLASSES LIKE THESE...?




WHO AM I?
I TOLD YOU. I'M KOGOE HORAGATOGE, CLASS 1-M.
CAN'T SAY THAT TOO LOUDLY THOUGH.

IN ANY CASE, YOU'RE ONE TO WATCH, IROHA IROHAZAKA ...

TO BE ABLE TO UTILIZE MY *WAR WEAPON* AT THAT LEVEL OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THAT...

I WONDER IF IT WOULD BE BEST TO PUT YOU STRAIGHT INTO THE FRAY JUST AS YOU ARE?

INTO THE MINING WAR FOR THE 50 MILLION MORG...

...OF CRYPTO-CURRENCY ASSETS LYING DORMANT IN CIPHER ACADEMY.

To be continued!



CIPHER ACADEMY

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation: Kumar Sivasubramanian
Lettering: Steve Dutro

Q.03

Difficulty Level: ★☆☆☆☆

CIPHER ACADEMY'S FAMOUS MORSE CODE MEAL-TICKET MACHINE (FREE OF CHARGE)!

GEE, I'D LIKE TO HAVE LIDON NOODLES TODAY!

IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE...

...THIS LONG...

...LINE...

...BEHIND...

...ME!

LARGE

A DAY HAS PASSED SINCE MY CODE BATTLE WITH VILLAIN GIRL TOSHIISAI-SAN.

BUT FOR ME, CLASS I-A'S IROHA IROHAZAKA... MY SCHOOL LIFE HASN'T REALLY CHANGED.

SIGH...

I WONDER IF THAT GIRL IS SAFE NOW...

CLASS I-M'S KOGOE HORAGATOGE.

AND I NEED TO RETURN THESE STRANGE HIGH-TECH GLASSES—

SLORRP

KLANK

ガシャン

WHOA! WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?!

IS IT THE END OF THE WORLD?!

FWAM

もぐもぐ NOM
NOM
...I'M RELATIVELY SAFE UNTIL CLASSES END.
THAT VILLAIN GIRL IS VERY SERIOUS ABOUT HER LESSONS.
I CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, BUT...
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY, IROHA.
TEE HEE HEE!

MENU
1. CURRY カレー
2. UDON うどん
3. PASTA パスタ
4. BREAD パン
5. SUSHI 寿司
6. RAMEN ラーメン
7. SALAD サラダ
8. AMERICANDOG アメリカンドッグ
9. KATSUDON カツ丼
10. SMOOTHIE スムージー
11. YASAIITAME 野菜炒め
12. PIZZA ピザ
13. TEBASAKI 手羽先
14. OATMEAL オートミール
15. OMELETTE オムレツ
16. TEMPURA 天麩羅

...BUT IT'S LIKE I'M CHEATING. I FEEL ROTTEN ABOUT IT.
SHF
ズリ
...WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE THESE GLASSES?
I MEAN, THEY SAVED MY SKIN...

CHOMP
パク
...I'M NOT GONNA ASK WHY YOU'RE BEING CHASED, SO I WON'T, BUT...
I TOLD YOU...

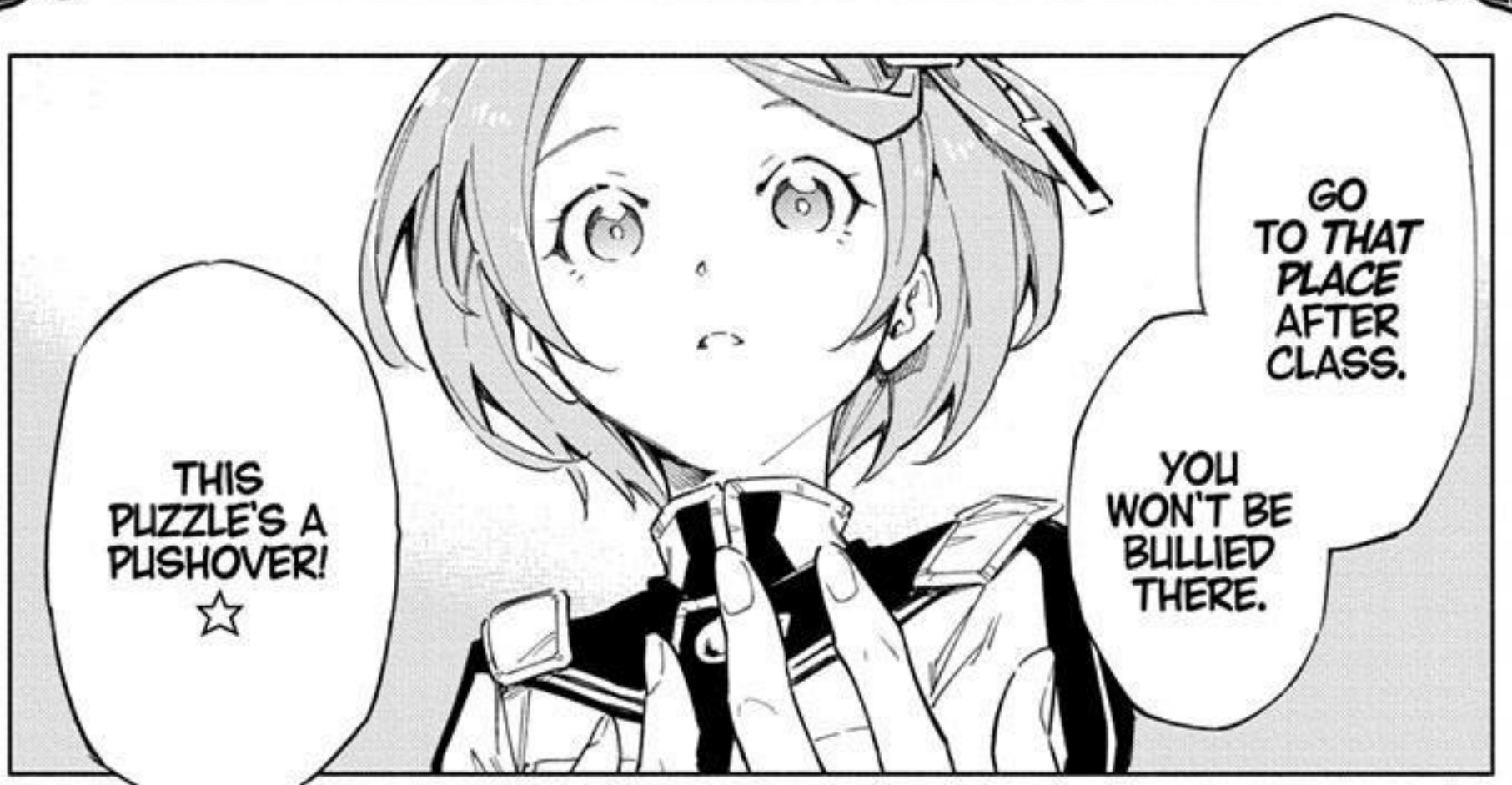
IROHA, HOLD OUT YOUR HAND A SECOND.
I CAN'T TALK ABOUT *THAT* UNTIL AFTER CLASS.
Not your dominant hand.
SPOP
キュポン
?

I ALREADY FEEL OUT OF PLACE AS THE ONLY BOY IN CLASS. GETTING BULLIED'S JUST GONNA MAKE THINGS HARDER.
AND NOW THAT VILLAIN GIRL HAS HER EYE ON ME.
AT LEAST GIVE ME SOME CLUE AS TO WHAT'S GOING ON SO I CAN DEFEND MYSELF.

Q.04

Difficulty Level: ★★★☆☆





ガララ
SHRAAK

...BUT THAT HOMEWORK SHE LEFT WITH ME IS ANOTHER PAIN.

WHAT DO I DO? I WANTED TO CHECK OUT THE EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS TOO...

AND IN THE END I FAILED TO GIVE BACK THE GLASSES ...

HMPH. SHE ENDED UP GIVING ME THE SLIP.

I GUESS I CAN JUST GO UP TO TOSHUSAI-SAN AND BEG FOR MERCY...

WELL, I'D BETTER GO AND SEE KOGOE-CHAN AFTER CLASS!

'CAUSE IF I DON'T, I WON'T BE SIGNING UP FOR ANY CLUBS— I'LL BE SIGNING MY WILL!

THANKS. YOU'RE SO DEPENDABLE, TOSHUSAI-SAN!

...

AH, MASTER. HOW DO YOU DO?

WHY NOT SIT YOUR BUTT DOWN?

I'LL BE HERE, ON GUARD FOR YOU.

!!

I COULDN'T EVEN TELL "UDON" AND "KATSUDON" APART IN MORSE CODE...

Is it a map?

THAT SAID, I'VE GOT NO IDEA ABOUT THIS CODE (DIAGRAM)...

IS TOSHIISAI-SAN WRITING A MESSAGE ON MY BACK WITH HER FINGER?

...A FINGER?

NO, THAT'S NOT IT. IT'S...

NO WAY! HAVE I BEEN STABBED?! IN CLASS?!

WHAT THE—?! I FEEL AN ODD SENSATION ON MY BACK...

YOU CAN'T SEE THE BLACKBOARD WITHOUT YOUR GLASSES ON, CAN YOU?

W-WHAT'S SHE WRITING?

IS THIS SOME KIND OF BACK-CHANNEL METHOD FOR DELIVERING MESSAGES?

I HOPE SHE'S NOT WRITING INSULTS, BUT...UH...

WHERE'D I PUT THEM...? OH, ON MY HEAD?

ACK! THAT'S RIGHT! THE GLASSES!

I HAVE TROUBLE READING SMALL PRINT...

...

HERE THEY ARE...

THEY'RE AUTO-MATICALLY WORKING AGAIN...

GRID LINES?!

!!

VEEEN

...WITH NOTHING IN IT...

...OF THE 16 SQUARES, THERE'S ONE...

WAIT, BUT...

I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS A PATTERN... BUT FROM THIS PERSPEC-TIVE...

...EVERY SQUARE GRID CONTAINS A LINE...

...

!!

ZWAAH

IS THIS A 15-SQUARE PUZZLE?

THIS SHOULD BE ELEMEN-TARY!

HEH HEH!

I'VE DEFINITELY DONE THESE SORTS OF SLIDE PUZZLES BEFORE... (ON MY SMARTPHONE THOUGH.)

OF COURSE... SEEN IN THREE DIMENSIONS, IT'S OBVIOUS.

IT'S NOT THAT THERE'S NO LINE IN THE SQUARE— THE SPACE IS EMPTY.

I DID IT!

BUT IT TOOK ME SIX HOURS!

IS THIS THE ENGLISH LETTER...

...M?!

OH!

...BUT I WAS JUST SO FULL AND PRE-OCCUPIED AT THE TIME...

I REALLY SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN MORE INFO IN THE CAFETERIA WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE...

I THOUGHT THE CODE WAS SUPPOSED TO REVEAL A LOCATION...

M? CLASS M?

DOES THAT CLASS EVEN EXIST...?



THE LETTER M IN MORSE COSE IS "DAH-DAH." DAH IS "TSU" IN JAPANESE, WHICH SOUNDS LIKE THE ENGLISH "TWO."

IN OTHER WORDS, "TWO-TWO," WHICH COULD BE READ AS "TWO-DASH-TWO," MEANING THE CORRECT ANSWER IS "YEAR 2, CLASS B," RIGHT?

A DASH IS THE SAME AS THE KANJI FOR THE NUMBER ONE, SO "DASH-DASH" COULD ALSO BE INTERPRETED WITH KANJI NUMERALS AS "ONE-DASH-ONE."

BUT CLASS 1-A IS MY CLASS, THE STARTING POINT, SO THAT CAN'T BE IT.

NICE ICE-COLD READING.

BRILLIANT WORK...

...IROHA IROHAZAKA!

1-M, Number 0
Kogoe Horagatoge
Born June 7

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BLIND SPOT, BUT COMING HERE WAS ELEMENTARY. SINCE THIS IS A NEWLY ESTABLISHED SCHOOL...

...THE CLASSROOMS FOR HIGHER GRADES AREN'T BEING USED YET. THAT SAID, IT FEELS WEIRD HERE.

IS THIS CLASS I-M'S ROOM?

WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE METAVERSE WHERE CLASS I-M EXISTS ONCE WE'RE A BIT BETTER ACQUAINTED.

BY THE WAY, IROHA...

...DID YOU DO YOUR HOME-WORK?

THE ONE THAT'S NOT A CODE.

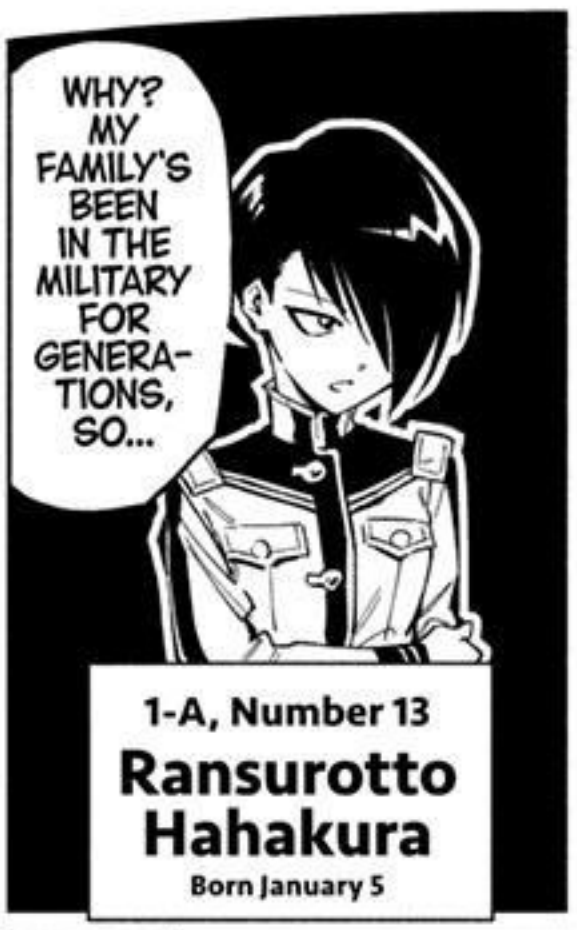
I DID.

NOW, THAT WAS NOT ELEMENTARY AT ALL.

BUT I'M THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO DOES THEIR ASSIGNED HOMEWORK.

I ASKED EVERY ONE OF MY CLASS-MATES...

...WHY THEY ENROLLED AT THIS SCHOOL.



1-A, Number 13
Ransurotto Hahakura
Born January 5



1-A, Number 14
Harukiri Botayama
Born June 26



1-A, Number 6
Kakune Karigane
Born May 8



1-A, Number 16
Ashibi Mokumokuren
Born September 3



1-A, Number 11
Shutan Nutaba
Born May 3



1-A, Number 5
Ensa Kasuri
Born February 3



1-A, Number 12
Iesuno Nohime
Born March 14



1-A, Number 2
Sunka Umitsubame
Born September 7



1-A, Number 19
Shokuho Yorokawa
Born March 8

THERE IS A CODE WARRIOR I DEEPLY ADMIRE.

1-A, Number 15
Otamajakushi Mamushihishimeki
Born September 5

COMPANY SECRET

1-A, Number 10
Akina Namasu
Born August 4

I NEED TO AVENGE MY OLDER BROTHER.

FOR MY YOUNGER BROTHER.

1-A, Number 18
Rokaku Yosaimura
Born March 27

...

MORALITY REGULATION

1-A, Number 9
(Anonymity requested)
(Birthdate redacted)

I'M MOTIVATED BY HATRED.

AND ANGER.

1-A, Number 3
Soboro Oboro
Born September 26

THAT'S WHY!

WELL, IT SEEMS FUN, RIGHT?

1-A, Number 7
Shitsuke Koshibai
Born April 3

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS WHAT THEY TOLD YOU.

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.

WERE YOU POINTING OUT THAT UNLIKE ME, A BOY WHO STRAYED INTO THIS MILITARY SCHOOL WITH NO DREAMS OR AMBITIONS...

...THE GIRLS EACH HAVE THEIR OWN REASONS?

I DIDN'T ASK *THOSE THREE*, OF COURSE.

ANYWAY, WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THIS ASSIGNMENT?

MOST OF THEM WERE *LYING.*

I CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, BUT...

...*THOSE GIRLS* HAVE A DIFFERENT OBJECTIVE HERE.

PUT PRECISELY, WHAT ALL THOSE LIARS WANT IS THE HIDDEN FORTUNE BURIED DEEP UNDERGROUND HERE AT CIPHER ADADEMY...

THE 50 BILLION MORG!

HARD TO SAY...

AFTER ALL, MORG IS A CRYPTO-CURRENCY.

ITS VALUE FLUCTUATES FROM ONE MINUTE TO THE NEXT.

WHA—?

HOW MUCH IS THAT IN YEN?

FIFTY BILLION MORG!

ER... UMM...

M-MILITARY BUDGET?

...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "PRINCIPAL"?

GULP ゴクリ

...I CAN ASSURE YOU IT WILL NEVER BE BELOW THE MEDIAN MILITARY BUDGET APPROPRIATED BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

CAN'T SAY THAT TOO LOUDLY THOUGH.

BUT MORG HAS *SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES* AROUND IT THAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER CRYPTO-CURRENCIES.

THE PRINCIPAL CAPITAL CANNOT BE GUARANTEED, BUT NO MATTER HOW LOW IT MAY FALL...

!!

...AND, TO TELL THE TRUTH, CIPHER ACADEMY WAS ESTABLISHED WITH SOME OF THOSE FUNDS.

IT IS SAID THAT GHQ (GENERAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE ALLIED POWERS) CONFISCATED GOLD AND SILVER VALUABLES FROM OCCUPIED JAPAN...

A QUESTION THAT CUTS TO THE CORE, INDEED.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF *M FUND*?

PRIZE MONEY? WHAT'S THAT? IT'S THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT...

I WAS TRYING TO ASK WHAT "PRINCIPAL" MEANT, BUT WHATEVER.

...AND AS PRIZE MONEY TO BE GRANTED TO THE SCHOOL'S BEST...

...CODE SOLVERS.

THE REST WAS PUT INTO INVESTMENTS...

...AS OPERATING FUNDS FOR THE ACADEMY...

...FOR MINING A 50 BILLION M FORTUNE.

YOU SEE, THOSE GLASSES, IROHA...

...ARE WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A PICKAX...

...ARE ALREADY WORKING THEIR WAY UP TO THE TOP OF THE CLASS, WHICH IS SOMETHING WORTH SPENDING THE MILITARY BUDGET ON.

IT'S NOT THE KIND OF SCHOOL TRADITION YOU CAN WRITE ABOUT IN AN ADMISSIONS BROCHURE.

BUT THE SMART ONES...

...KOGOE HORAGATOGE-SAN.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE SAYING YOU'RE NOT A MONEY-HUNGRY WOLF YOURSELF...

...I ALSO WANT THAT MONEY, REAL BAD.

I'D...LIKE TO SAY I'M NOT, BUT...

...STARTING WITH KYORA TOSHUSAI, THE HEIRESS TO A MUNITIONS CORPORATION AND A MERCHANT OF DEATH.

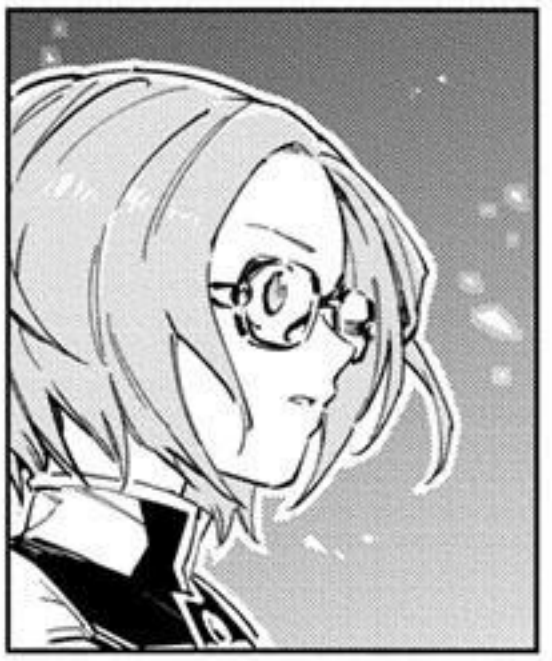
IT'S A ***SECRET WEAPON*** I DEVELOPED TO OUTWIT ALL THOSE MONEY-HUNGRY WOLVES...


AFTER ALL, IF I HAD THAT KIND OF MONEY, I COULD END...
...HALF THE WARS IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW.

I WISH I COULD TELL YOU EVERY-THING, BUT LET'S START WITH WHAT I CAN DO.

AND THAT'S WHY I TOOK THE OFFER WHEN I WAS *SCOUTED*...

...BY CIPHER ACADEMY AND BY CLASS M.



A-ARE YOU BEING SERIOUS? OR ARE YOU PULLING MY LEG?

I MEAN, THAT'S WHY A SCHOOL LIKE THIS EXISTS, RIGHT?

A LOT OF *SMART PEOPLE* SAY THE SAME THING— THAT WAR IS HUMANITY'S FATE AND WILL ALWAYS BE THERE.

FORCING PEOPLE TO SUBMIT...

GANGING UP ON SOME-ONE TO COERCE THEM...

EVEN IN PEACETIME, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

AND YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP THAT ALL BY YOURSELF ...?

THAT'S WHY I NEVER SAID I CAN GET RID OF EVERY-THING.

AND I NEVER SAID I COULD DO IT ON MY OWN.



...AND THEN WE'LL GET RID OF ALL WARS TOGETHER.

WE'LL START WITH HALF...

IF YOU'VE GOT NO DREAMS, I'LL SHOW YOU SOME.

...IF YOU JOIN ME, IROHA.

I CAN ONLY MAKE MY DREAM STRATEGY COME TRUE...

I HOPE YOU'LL HELP ME WITH MY *TREASURE HUNT.*

SPECIFI-CALLY...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE BACK THAT *PICKAX.*

IN FACT, I WANT SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO HAVE IT.

HEH

...AND SECURING THE POSITION OF CLASS LEADING PRIVATE.

TAKING DOWN THOSE LYING CLASSMATES...

DO YOU TRUST ME BECAUSE I'M THE BOY WHO WAS ADMITTED...

...JUST TO FULFILL A QUOTA?

W-WHY ME?

I HAVEN'T SOLVED A SINGLE PUZZLE YET WITHOUT CHEATING.

...IN-CLUDING CLASS M, WHERE I BELONG.

SURE, IT'S A PAIN, BUT IF YOU DO THAT, THEN I CAN LEAD YOU...

...INTO THE DEPTHS OF CIPHER ACADEMY...

YOU WERE SMOOTH.

I CAME UP WITH THE CODE IN THE CAFETERIA, SO YOU GUESSED THAT MORSE CODE MUST BE INVOLVED.

AND YOU HAD TWO OPTIONS, 1-A OR 2-B, AND WERE ABLE TO EASILY RULE OUT THE FORMER. THAT KIND OF INSIGHT IS INDISPENSABLE IN CODE BREAKING.

IN THE END, A PICKAX IS ONLY A PICKAX.

IT *DREW* THE GRID LINES FOR YOU...

...BUT IT DIDN'T GIVE YOU THE ANSWER.

AND YOU, MY HUMBLE IROHA, ARE THE FIRST TREASURE...

SO I'VE BEEN EAGER TO FIND A PARTNER.

...THAT I'VE DUG UP AT THIS SCHOOL.

...I COMPLETELY LACK THE TALENT YOU HAVE.

UNFORTUNATELY, THOUGH I WAS ABLE TO BUILD THAT SECRET WEAPON...

TOK

THE REASON I ADMIRE YOU, IROHA, IS BECAUSE...

...YOU'RE SO NAIVE, YOU HID ME WHEN I WAS ON THE RUN WITHOUT EVEN ASKING WHY!

IT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE OF YOUR INSIGHT.

AND YOUR GENDER HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

...

INCIDENTALLY, QUITE A FEW OF THE STUDENTS THOUGHT IROHAZAKA WAS A GIRL.

THAT MIGHT BE A PROBLEM FOR A FUTURE CODE SQUAD.

SEEMS LIKE HE WAS GOING AROUND ASKING OUR CLASS-MATES ALL SORTS OF QUESTIONS FOR SOME REASON...

IT'S NO USE. I CAN'T FIND THEM ANYWHERE...

HORA-GATOGE OR IROHAZAKA!

ARE YOU SAYING HE MIGHT BE BECOMING HORA-GATOGE'S *FRIEND*?

THAT WOULD BE REALLY BAD.

IRO-HAZAKA PROBABLY ...

...HAS NO IDEA WHAT HE'S HELPING WITH OR WHO HE'S PROTECT-ING.

...BUT RIGHT ABOUT NOW, HE'S PROBABLY BEING ENSNARED BY THAT LITTLE GIRL'S ELO-QUENCE.

GOOD GRIEF. MAYBE I WAS A LITTLE TOO OVER-BEAR-ING...

I ONLY INTENDED TO WARN HIM AGAINST GETTING ANY CLOSER TO KOGOE...

IF OUR COMPANY'S FORMER TECHNICAL EXPERT GETS THAT NEGATIVE LEGACY OF 50 BILLION...

...OF THAT WAR-DAMAGE CRYPTO-CURRENCY MORG.

THE MORE WARS THAT START, THE MORE THE VALUE GOES UP...

INDEED.

THIS HAS LIT A REAL FIRE UNDER MY BUTT.



To be continued!



Chapter 3 Decoding May Dance, But It Does Not Move Forward

Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Kumar Sivasubramanian Lettering: Steve Dutro

KOGOE HORAGATOGE ...

...IS A WAR-MONGER!

MUCH AS WE BUY AND SELL WEAPONS...

...THAT GIRL BUYS AND SELLS WARS.

OH? ARE THINGS MOVING A BIT TOO FAST?

WELL, LET'S SET ASIDE THE 50 BILLION MORG FOR NOW...

...AND START WITH BEING FRIENDS.

TEE HEE HEE!

HM?

WHAT'S THIS?

OH NO, IT'S NOT THAT...

IN FACT, IT'S ABOUT THE "FRIENDS" THING.

WHAT A PAIN!

WELL, IT'S NOT REALLY ELEMENTARY, IS IT?

WE JUST MET, AND FOR A BOY AND GIRL TO BECOME CLOSE THIS QUICKLY...

I MEAN, I'M GRATEFUL, BUT...

...IS REALLY LOVELY. IT'S TOUCHING.

PLEASE DON'T MISUNDER-STAND. YOUR DREAM OF ERADICATING HALF OF ALL WARS...

SORRY, BUT I GOTTA GO NOW.

...

...PLEASE CHOOSE SOMEONE MORE DEPEND-ABLE.

SO, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A TREASURE-HUNTING PARTNER...

ガラ

SHRAAK

AREN'T YOU INTERESTED?

I'M PRETTY SURE YOU ARE.

I CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, BUT...

SOLVING THOSE OUT-RAGEOUS CODES...

YOU ENJOYED IT, DIDN'T YOU?

...THAT THE SCHOOL, THAT VILLAIN GIRL, AND I SET UP FOR YOU, RIGHT?

IT MIGHT BE HARD TO UNDER-STAND...

SLAM

...BUT KNOWING YOU, IROHA, ONE DAY, ON YOUR OWN, YOU'LL—

HELLO, CG...

WELL, HE DIDN'T ACTUALLY TURN ME DOWN...

HO HO HO! SO YOU WERE TURNED DOWN...

KOGOE

PROFESSOR KOGOE!

!!

I THOUGHT HE'D JOIN ME WHEN I TOLD HIM MY DREAM STRATEGY ...

...BUT IROHA'S SELF-ESTEEM IS LOWER THAN I EXPECTED.

IT SEEMS I MADE HIM THINK THAT HE *CAN'T KEEP UP* WITH ME.

GOOD QUES-TION.

I *ABSO-LUTELY WANT* IROHA TO BECOME *CLASS LEADING PRIVATE.*

AND SEEING IS BELIEV-ING.

BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT TOO LOUDLY.

SO WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

YOU ARE A *WAR-MONGER,* AFTER ALL.

IT'S NO BIG DEAL. I'LL SEE ABOUT LETTING HIM...

...PUT A STOP TO TWO OR THREE SMALL WARS BY SOLVING SOME CODES!

THEN HE'LL DEFINITELY FALL FOR ME.

IF IT'S SELF-CONFIDENCE YOU LACK, THEN I'LL MAKE SURE YOU SUCCEED, IROHA!

SHEESH...

...

I'M ALWAYS LIKE THIS. (I KNOW THAT.)

IN THE END, I FAILED TO GIVE BACK THE GLASSES AGAIN.

OH, COME TO THINK OF IT...

...I DIDN'T ASK HOW THE GLASSES CAN TALK EITHER.

YOUR PUZZLE WAS SOLVED, WHICH MEANS YOU LOST.

NOT A PEEP FROM THEM SINCE THEN THOUGH...

BUT IT'S BETTER THIS WAY.

OUT-SOLVING 18 CLASS-MATES TO BECOME CLASS LEADING PRIVATE...

...IS A PIPE DREAM AT BEST...

IF YOU'VE GOT NO DREAMS, I'LL SHOW YOU SOME.

フッ HEH!



!!

!!

WHUP

FWP キョロ キョロ FWP

...

YOU CAN RELAX. THE YOUNG MISS ISN'T HERE.

AND WE'RE ALWAYS IN THE BUSINESS OF MAKING OFFERS.

SO PLEASE CHOOSE, IROHAZAKA-KUN...

OR A DANCE BATTLE?!

WILL IT BE A CODE BATTLE?!

MAYBE HE'S NOT AS SORRY AS HE SEEMS.

AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN IT'S SIMPLE.

...HE WAS ACTING STRANGE, BUT ONLY WHEN WEARING THEM.

THOSE GLASSES ARE CLEARLY SUSPICIOUS.

AND EVEN TODAY IN CLASS...

THE THREE OF US CAN GO TO MILITARY PRISON TOGETHER.

FINE, THEN.

OH! NO! I DIDN'T MEAN—

ARE YOU SUGGESTING WE STEAL AN ITEM THAT MIGHT COST 100 MILLION YEN IN MATERIALS ALONE?

...

YU-KAKO.

WE WAIT FOR THE OPPOR-TUNITY AND TAKE THEM BY FORCE.

FORGET THE 100 MILLION YEN. ACCORDING TO THE WAR-MONGER...

...THOSE GLASSES ARE A PICKAX FOR DIGGING UP 50 BILLION MORG.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY SHE ENTRUSTED IT TO SOMEONE WHO SEEMS HARMLESS.

BUT HE PROBABLY WON'T HAND IT OVER, TOSHUSAI-SAMA.

STEALING THEM FROM THE WAR-MONGER HERSELF WOULD BE ONE THING.

BUT IF IT'S THE **LATEST WEAPON** THAT WAS OFFICIALLY TRANSFERRED TO HIM...

...THEN OUR ONLY OPTION WOULD BE FOR IROHAZAKA TO OFFER IT HIMSELF.

IT'S TOO SOON TO BUTT OUR HEADS AGAINST THE WALL.

OH, WE HAVE WAYS.

THIS IS CIPHER ACADEMY.

AS OUT OF PLACE AS THAT BOY MAY BE HERE...

SWIP

SWIP

...HE STILL MADE IT IN AS A STUDENT!


WHAT
WHAT




SHWIK
スイッ
HOW WAS THAT?!


WELL, WHILE YOU WERE DANCING, I CAME UP WITH THIS PUZZLE.
YOU HAVE 30 MINUTES TO SOLVE IT, SO—
WHAT?! THAT WASN'T THE DEAL!


UH...
OKAY.
OKAY.

ISN'T SAYING "YOU MAY BE A BOY" A BIT MUCH?

SO WHAT IF HE'S CUTER THAN A GIRL?

OKAY, FINE! I APOLO-GIZE!

THAT WAS BRILLIANT DANCING!

DON'T TAKE WHAT I STYLISHLY SAID SO SERIOUSLY! THAT WAS FOR EFFECT!

YOU MAY BE A BOY, BUT YOUR DANCE MOVES ARE SO GRACEFUL!

THAT'S NOT FAIR! I CHOSE THE DANCE BATTLE!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, ISN'T IT?!

...

HOW DO I KNOW YOU'LL KEEP YOUR PROMISE?

You did just lie to me.

IF YOU SOLVE THIS PUZZLE IN 30 MINUTES, WE WON'T BOTHER YOU EVER AGAIN.

WE'LL EVEN REQUEST TO CHANGE SEATS.

THUD

THOSE SHOULDN'T BE BAD TERMS FOR THE PERSON WHO SOLVED THE YOUNG MISS'S CODE...

...IN SUCH SPEC-TACULAR FASHION.

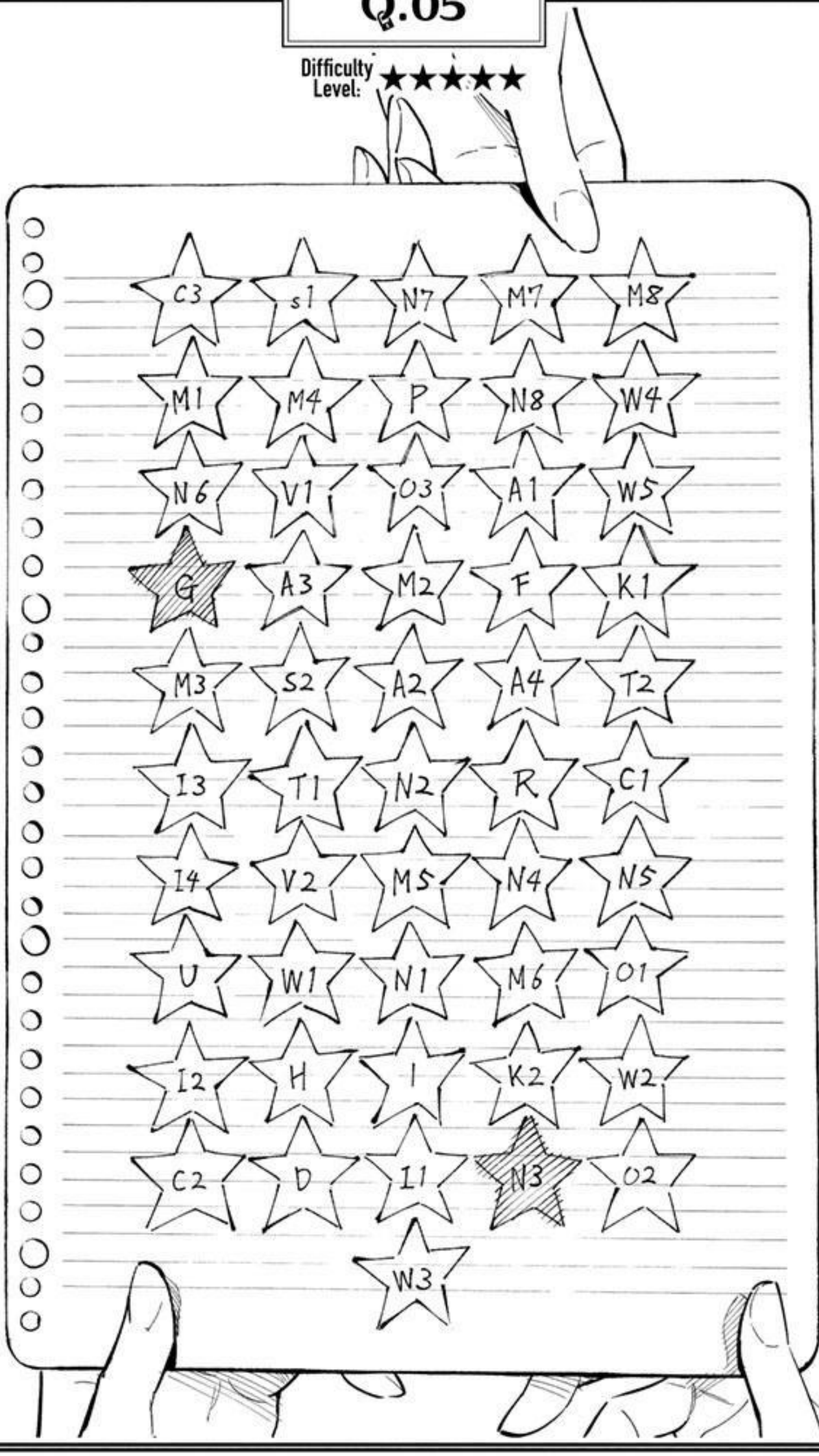
Oh, shut up!

THIS IS CIPHER ACADEMY.

AN EXCHANGE OF PROMISES IS ABSOLUTE WHEN CODED DOCUMENTS ARE INVOLVED.

Q.05

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★



KTAK
KTAK
KTAK
CLIK CLIK
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, PROFESSOR KOGOE...? AT THIS RATE IT SEEMS IROHA IROHAZAKA...
TOO BAD! I WANTED TO SEE IROHA DANCE TOO!
OH WELL. JUST SEEING YUKAKO LOSE HER COMPOSURE FROM *IROHA'S POINT OF VIEW* WAS FUN ENOUGH!
KTAK
KTAK
CLIK
CLIK
...
TEE HEE HEE!

...HE HAS TO AT LEAST BEAT THE VILLAIN GIRL'S CRONIES.
CLIK
IT'S TOTALLY FINE! I ENTRUSTED HIM WITH *YOUR GRANDCHILD* FOR TIMES JUST LIKE THIS.
IF HE'S A CODE-BREAKER WHO'S GOING TO BECOME MY COMRADE IN ARMS...
KTAK TAK
...THANKS TO THOSE ASSOCIATES OF YOUR FORMER EMPLOYER, KYORA TOSHIISAI,
...WILL GO DOWN IN FLAMES ...

THE SAME CONDITION AS BEFORE...
...THEN I HAVE TO BECOME YOUR MAN-SERVANT, RIGHT?
SO, IF I CAN'T SOLVE THIS PUZZLE...

ZAT
IDEALLY, WE ONLY WANT TO SOLVE CONFLICTS THAT'LL HAVE A LIMITED EFFECT ON THE CRYPTO-CURRENCY.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I NEED TO SELECT WHICH WARS TO STOP.
IF STOPPING A WAR CAUSES THE VALUE OF MORG TO CRUMBLE, OUR EFFORTS WOULD BE FOR NAUGHT.

WELL, IT HAS FELT LIKE A CAT-AND-MOUSE GAME FROM THE START.

AW, BUSTED, HUH?

TEE HEE HEE!

!!

NO. WE DON'T WANT THAT.

YOU MUST HAND OVER *THOSE GLASSES* YOU'RE WEARING.

IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I USE IT AGAIN?

YUGATA-SAN!

YOU LENT ME THIS HAIR TIE EARLIER AND DIDN'T TAKE IT BACK!

...

HEH HEH!

I MEAN, YOU WERE HOLDING IT IN YOUR MOUTH THE OTHER DAY.

SURE.

GO AHEAD AND KEEP IT.




HM? WHAT'S THIS? YOU WANT TO WAGER MONEY?
OR DO YOU WANT ME TO DANCE?
CHANG-ING SEATS ISN'T REALLY WORTH IT.
COULD WE CHANGE THE CONDI-TIONS...?


OMO-MURO-SAN.


...STOP CHASING KOGOE.
NO. IF I SOLVE THIS CODE, THEN YOU PEOPLE...

I CAN'T HELP HER, BUT I DON'T WANT TO GET IN HER WAY.

Oof!

UH... I DON'T REALLY KNOW KOGOE WELL...

...BUT SHE PRAISED SOMEONE LIKE ME, EVEN IF SHE DIDN'T MEAN IT.

SOMEONE LIKE ME CANNOT WAGER THE ACTIONS OF THE YOUNG MISS.

MAKING THAT DECISION IS ABOVE MY AUTHORITY.

GNG

OH MY!

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE FALLING FOR YOU, NOT THE REVERSE!

SQUEEE

(♡)

WHAP

THAT'S ELEMENTARY, RIGHT?

OKAY, JUST YOU AND YUGATA-SAN THEN.

I WANT THE TWO OF YOU TO QUIT THE KOGOE SEARCH SQUAD.

I FIND IT *MASCU-LINE.*

NO.

...

DO YOU THINK I BABBLE TOO MUCH...

...FOR A BOY?

!!

THEN LET ME ADD TO THE CONDITIONS TOO.

IF YOU CAN'T SOLVE IT, YOU MUST SURRENDER THE GLASSES AND...

...TRANSFER TO TRENCH ACADEMY.

IROHAZAKA-KUN WOULDN'T LAST THREE DAYS IN A PLACE LIKE THAT!

*TRENCH ACADEMY... IN CONTRAST TO CIPHER ACADEMY, IT'S A SPARTAN **BOYS' SCHOOL** FOR REARING COMMANDOS.*

THAT WAS SO STYLISHLY SAID...

TRANSFER? HOW ELEMENTARY.

I ALWAYS OFFER CHOICES.

YOU CAN CRY AND BEG DISGRACEFULLY IF YOU LIKE.

OR, IF YOU'RE A *MAN AMONGST MEN...*

THE CODE BATTLE IS SET!

IF YOU SOLVE MY CODE...

...THEN THE TWO OF US PROMISE TO LEAVE KOGOE HORAGATOGE ALONE!

AND I SWEAR TOO.

THIS WILL BE MY LAST...

ICE...

...COLD...

...READING.

7ページ

NOT ONLY IS THERE NO LIGHT, IT'S GONE COMPLETELY BLACK.

...

WHAT THE?

...

IF I MAY BE SO RUDE AS TO INQUIRE, PROFESSOR KOGOE...

WHEN YOU TRANS-FERRED MY GRANDCHILD TO IROHA IROHAZAKA ...

...

DID OUR CONNECTION GET SEVERED? GAH, COME ON!

JUST AT THE GOOD PART TOO! AND I DID MAINTENANCE ON THE COMMUNI-CATION SATELLITE JUST YESTERDAY!

...YOU GAVE HIM THE *CHARGER* AS WELL, DIDN'T YOU?

AH!

IN OTHER WORDS, THE CONNECTION HASN'T BEEN SEVERED...

THE BATTERY'S RUN OUT!

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Kumar Sivasubramanian
Lettering: Steve Dutro

COTTON CANDY

①	A	U	T	O	M	O	B	I	L	E
②	C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	S	
③	H	O	O	L	I	G	A	N		
④		A	M	A	Z	I	N	G		
⑤		A	U	S	S	I	E			
⑥		R	E	B	E	L				
⑦		O	H	M	S					
⑧		P	A	N						
⑨		U	P							
⑩		O								

Across Clues

① A(n) VEHICLE with WHEELS
AUTOMOBILE

② TOOLS you like for RESEARCHING
COMPUTERS

③ Likes CAUSING TROUBLE
HOOLIGAN

④ Another word for AWESOME
AMAZING

⑤ PERSON in AUSTRALIA
AUSSIE

⑥ TEENAGERS do this
REBEL

⑦ A(n) LAW of ELECTRICITY
OHMS

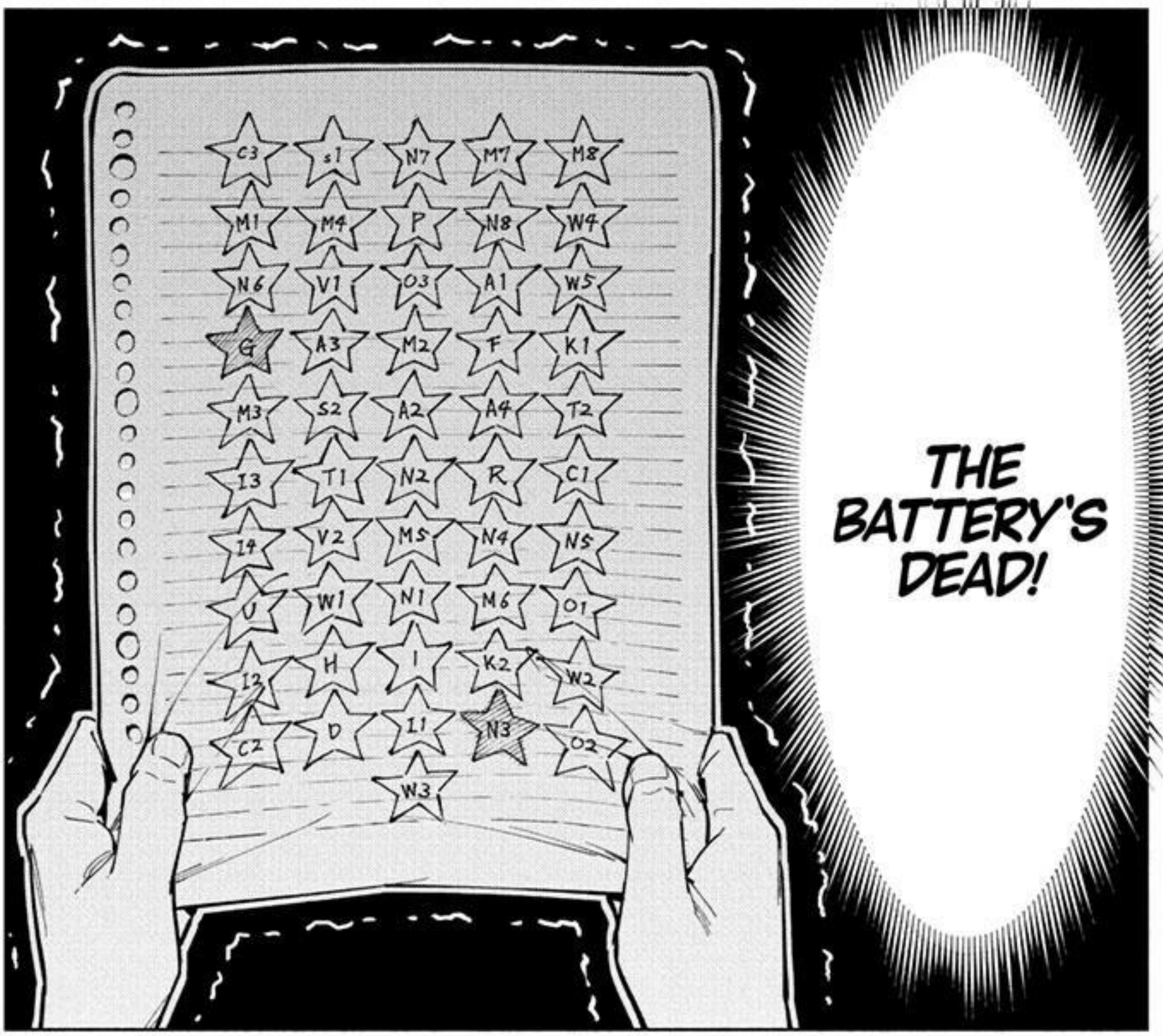
⑧ Use this to COOK
PAN

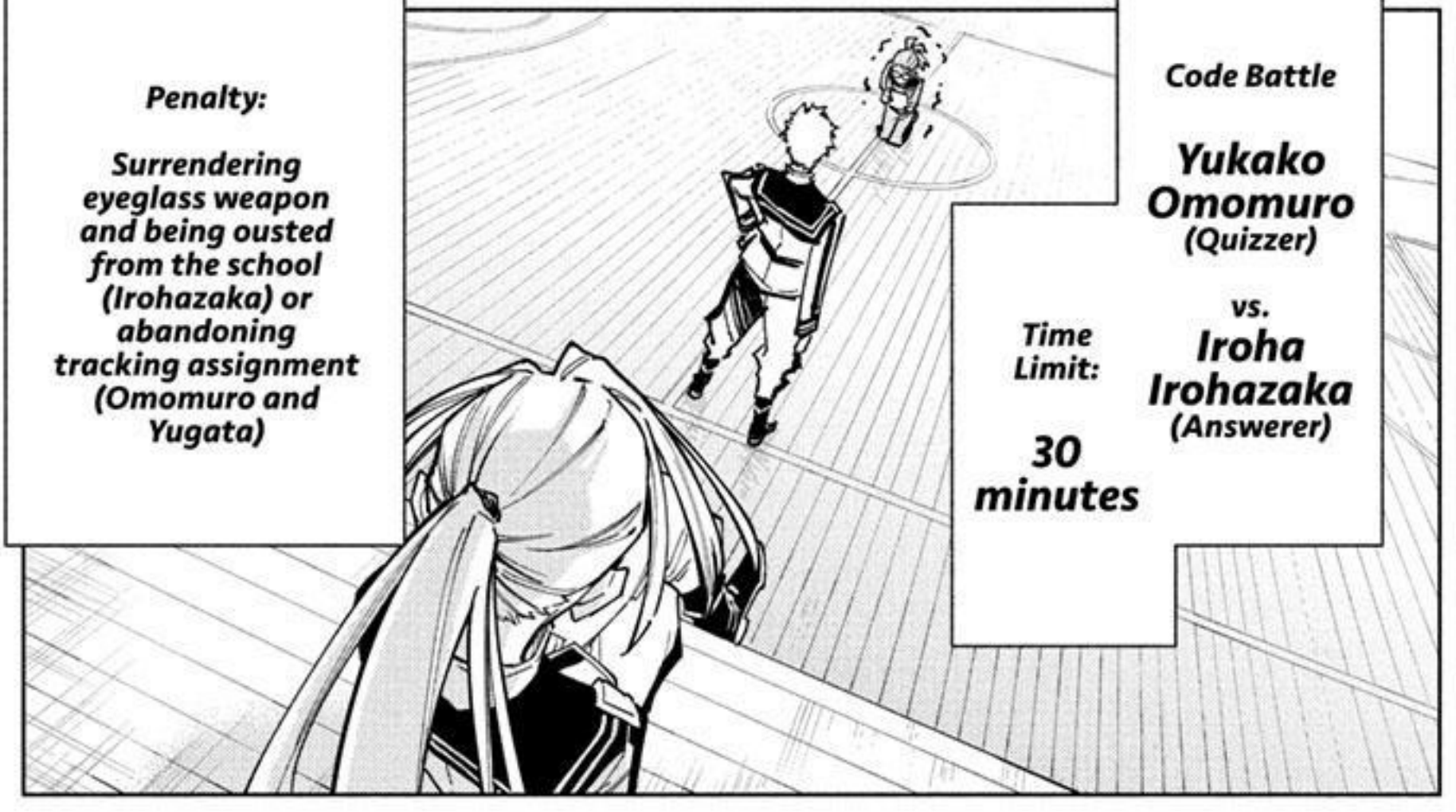
⑨ The OPPOSITE of DOWN
UP

⑩ Another word for OH
O

Down Clues

☆ What is your name?
OMOMURO


C3
S1
N7
M7
M8
M1
M4
P
N8
W4
N6
V1
O3
A1
W5
G
A3
M2
F
K1
M3
S2
A2
A4
T2
I3
T1
N2
R
C1
I4
V2
M5
N4
N5
U
W1
N1
M6
O1
I2
H
I
K2
W2
C2
D
I1
N3
O2
W3
THE BATTERY'S DEAD!


Penalty:
Surrendering eyeglass weapon and being ousted from the school (Irohazaka) or abandoning tracking assignment (Omomuro and Yugata)
Code Battle
Yukako Omomuro
(Quizzer)
vs.
Iroha Irohazaka
(Answerer)
Time Limit:
30 minutes

CHOMP

ガチ SHK
ガチ SHK
ガチガチ SHK SHK

OF COURSE THE PUZZLE'S NOT LIGHTING UP.

IT'S ELEMENTARY.

...THAT'S WISE, IN A SENSE. RATHER THAN SOLVING THE CODE—

I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, BUT...

WHAT'S THIS? ARE YOU ADMITTING DEFEAT?

TUNK

...EVEN IF I'M UNABLE TO SOLVE THIS PUZZLE.

THAT'S NOT IT. THIS IS A GUARANTEE.

I'LL LEAVE THESE GLASSES HERE AS PROOF THAT I WON'T BREAK THEM IN REVENGE...

TCH!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

BUT IN EXCHANGE, PLEASE GIVE ME A HINT.

YOU SEEM CONFIDENT ANYWAY. JUST ONE WOULDN'T HURT, RIGHT?

WHUP

GET IT?

THERE ARE AS MANY HINTS AS THERE ARE STARS...

THERE'S NOT JUST ONE.

Run away...?

DON'T EITHER OF YOU TWO RUN AWAY!

DASH

I'LL BE BACK IN 30 MINUTES! UNTIL THEN, I'LL LEAVE THE GLASSES HERE!

...THAT GUY'S A BIT OF AN ODDBALL.

I SUP-POSE...

...GAVE HIM A HINT YOU DIDN'T NEED TO, RIGHT?

IT'S FINE. I MEAN, EVEN YOU...

DON'T GLARE AT ME LIKE THAT. IT'S SCARY.

LIBRARY

...EVEN THOUGH HE COULD HAVE USED THEM...

...AS A BARGAINING CHIP BY THREATENING TO BREAK THEM...

...AND LEFT BEHIND KOGOE HORAGA-TOGE'S GLASSES...

JUST LOOK AT HOW HE TRUSTED US...

GUYS WHO DON'T RESORT TO VIOLENCE EVEN WHEN DRIVEN IN A CORNER...

I GUESS THEY REALLY DO EXIST.

AND THAT BRINGS TO MIND...

THE NUMBER OF STARS IN THIS CIPHER IS 51!

"AS MANY HINTS AS THERE ARE STARS..."

United States

Mexico

THE UNITED STATES OF AMER

THE STARS AND STRIPES!!

...A TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE OF A GROUPING OF 50 THAT IS ACTUALLY 51 IS...

AND SIMILARLY...

...BUT INCLUDING THE FEDERAL DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, DC, THAT MAKES 51!!

THE NUMBER OF STARS REPRESENTING THE NUMBER OF STATES IS 50.

I learned this in world history_.

THE 50-SOUND SYLLABARY !!

わ WA	ら RA	や YA	ま MA	は HA	な NA	た TA	さ SA	か KA	あ A
× X	り RI	× X	み MI	ひ HI	に NI	ち CHI	し SHI	き KI	い I
× X	る RU	ゆ YU	む MU	ふ FU	ぬ NU	つ TSU	す SU	く KU	う U
× X	れ RE	× X	め ME	へ HE	ね NE	て TE	せ SE	け KE	え E
を WO	ろ RO	よ YO	も MO	ほ HO	の NO	と TO	そ SO	こ KO	お O
ん N									

...BUT THAT WAS A HINT FROM OMOMURO-SAN.

I THOUGHT THOSE WORDS WERE MEANING-LESS...

...IN SUCH SPECTACULAR FASHION.

THOSE SHOULDN'T BE BAD TERMS FOR THE PERSON WHO SOLVED THE YOUNG MISS'S CODE...

...BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO SOLVE ANOTHER CODE THAT USES THE SAME RULES!

青ざめた熊は京においては静かなり。和奈の野にある石岡のみぞ知る、佐けた沖をふたつに分ける形こそ、まつろう媛をはぐくむ富崎ゆえに新井あり。三岐の高き山からはがれた岩では、きらめく宮に滋る秋こそ茨となる。徳のまつわる鳥は栃にまと

IT WAS CLEARLY A CHALLENGE, SAYING IT WOULD BE WEIRD IF I WAS ABLE TO SOLVE TOSHLISAI-SAN'S IROHA POEM ON MY OWN...

*The text above is from the poem that appears in chapter 1.

SO... HMM...

SHE TALKED TO ME SO CONDESCENDINGLY... BOY, SHE SURE DOES KNOW HOW TO HOLD A GRUDGE.

WHICH MEANS THIS IS A REVIEW OF PAST EXAMS...

...OR THEIR WAY OF EXACTING REVENGE!

LIKE THIS!

1	Alabama	A1	ん	26	Montana		
2	Alaska	A2	い	27	Nebraska		
3	Arizona	A3	う	28	Nevada		
4	Arkansas	A4	え	29	New Hampshire		
5	California	C1	お	30	New Jersey	N4	ぼ
6	Colorado	C2	か	31	New Mexico	N5	ま
7	Connecticut	C3	き	32	New York	N6	み
8	Delaware	D	く	33	North Carolina	N7	む
9	Florida	F	け	34	North Dakota	N8	め
10	Georgia	G	こ	35	Ohio	O1	も
11	Hawaii	H	さ	36	Oklahoma	O2	や
12	Idaho	I1	し	37	Oregon	O3	ゆ
13	Illinois	I2	す	38	Pennsylvania	P	よ
14	Indiana	I3	せ	39	Rhode Island	R	ら
15	Iowa	I4	そ	40	South Carolina	S1	り
16	Kansas	K1	た	41	South Dakota	S2	る
17	Kentucky	K2	ち	42	Tennessee	T1	れ
18	Louisiana	L	つ	43	Texas	T2	ろ
19	Maine	M1	て	44	Utah	U	わ
20	Maryland	M2	と	45	Vermont	V1	を
21	Massachusetts	M3	な	46	Virginia	V2	ゐ
22	Michigan	M4	に	47	Washington	W1	ゑ
23	Minnesota	M5	ぬ	48	West Virginia	W2	ゑ
24	Mississippi	M6	ね	49	Wisconsin	W3	ゑ
25	Missouri	M7	の	50	Wyoming	W4	を
				51	Washington D.C.	W5	ん

WORKING BACKWARD FROM THE ENGLISH LETTERS AND NUMBERS INSIDE THE STARS, AND PUTTING THEM IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER...

WITHOUT KOGOE'S GLASSES, I WOULDN'T KNOW THE USUAL WAY TO ORDER THE 50 STATES...

I-IT'S THIS, RIGHT?

OR AM I WRONG?

SO MUCH TIME AND EFFORT...

GEEZ, THIS IS A PAIN IN THE NECK...

NO, DON'T GET CONFUSED! KEEP GOING!

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO LINE UP THE 50 STATES AGAINST THE 50 SYLLABARY!

AREN'T YOU INTERESTED?

SOLVING CODES IS ACTUALLY...

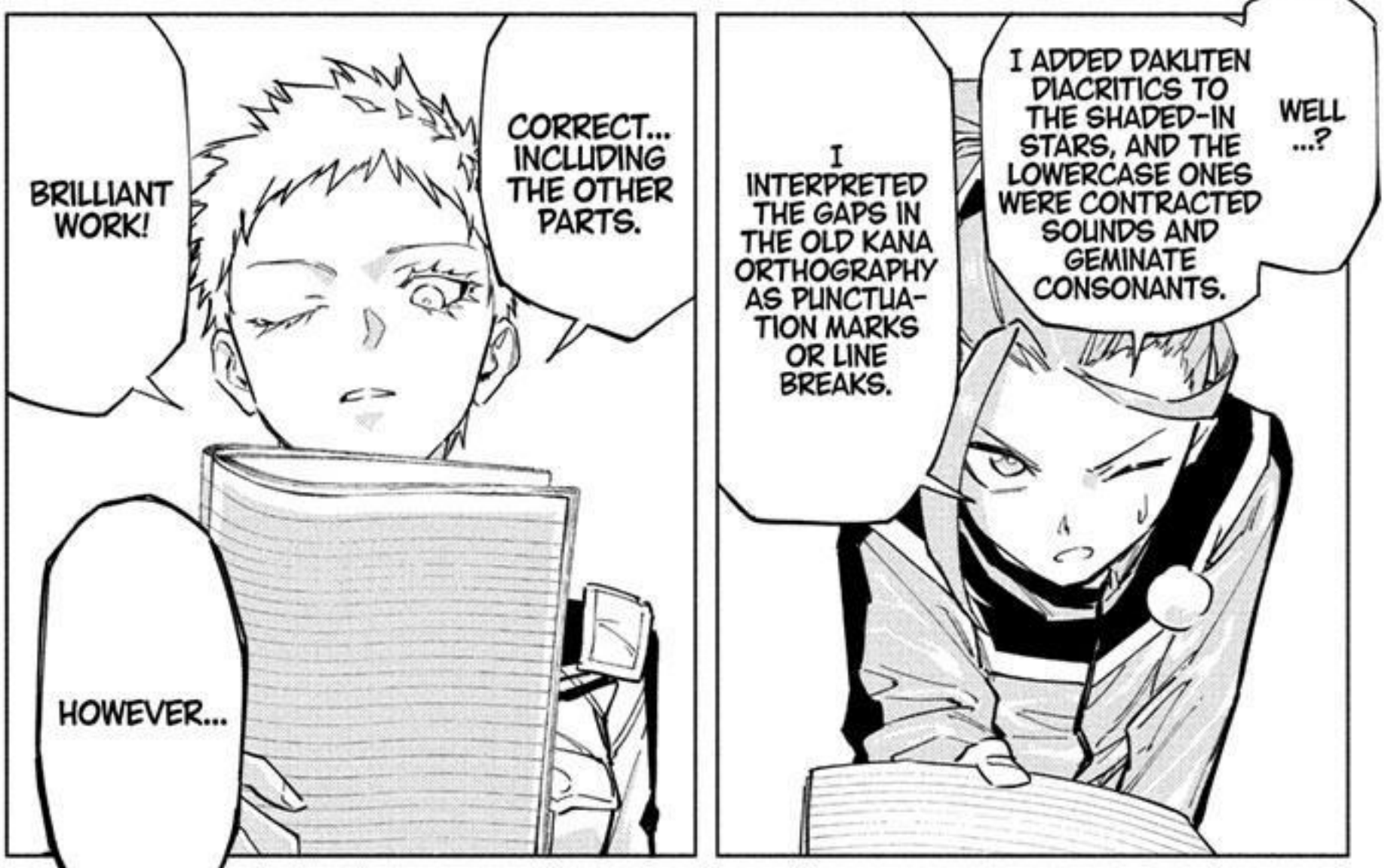
THIS ISN'T ELEMENTARY AT ALL.

CONSTANTLY REFERRING TO MAPS AND DICTIONARIES...

NO RELIANCE ON ADVANCED TECH...


I AM SUPER INTERESTED!!




I INTERPRETED THE GAPS IN THE OLD KANA ORTHOGRAPHY AS PUNCTUATION MARKS OR LINE BREAKS.
I ADDED DAKUTEN DIACRITICS TO THE SHADED-IN STARS, AND THE LOWERCASE ONES WERE CONTRACTED SOUNDS AND GEMINATE CONSONANTS.
WELL ...?
CORRECT... INCLUDING THE OTHER PARTS.
BRILLIANT WORK!
HOWEVER...

...YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME.

YOU HAD A 30-MINUTE TIME LIMIT...

...BUT YOU TOOK THREE HOURS.

I'M TOO KIND FOR WAITING THIS LONG...

EVEN SO, I SUPPOSE I OUGHT TO GIVE YOU SOME PRAISE...

...SINCE I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D SOLVE IT.

I SEE... THAT'S TOO BAD, BUT I GUESS IT IS WHAT IT IS.

ALTHOUGH I DID GIVE IT MY ALL. WELL...

SNIFF
シクル


I GUESS IT'S A DRAW THEN, HUH?


HUNH?!

GRP

THAT MAKES IT EVEN, RIGHT?

HM? WELL, IT IS, ISN'T IT?

I SOLVED THE PUZZLE, BUT I WENT OVER THE TIME LIMIT.

THIS ISN'T FUNNY, TAYU-SAN!!

BECAUSE UNLIKE TOSHUSAI-SAMA AND YUKAKO, I...

HMM. COUNT ME OUT.

WHAP

...WILL I GO UP AGAINST YOU NEXT, YUGATA-SAN?

WHAT NEXT? EXTRA INNINGS? OR...

?!

I HATE BULLYING WEAK-LINGS.

WHAT I MEAN IS...

トン TOK

HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING.

LET'S GO, YUKAKO.

GO UP ABOUT ANOTHER FIVE LEVELS, AND THEN WE'LL HAVE SOME FUN.

...HATE WEAKLINGS.

*"Kogoe" means "frozen" in Japanese.

BOY, THAT SURE GAVE ME CHILLS, JUST LIKE MY NAME!

HEE HEE HEE!

I DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO BOTHER BRINGING YOU THE CHARGER.

WHAT PASSION, IROHA.

AND IROHA MUST HAVE REALIZED BY NOW TOO...

...THAT THE BIGGEST WAY *THAT WEAPON* CHEATS...

I CAN'T SAY THAT TOO LOUDLY THOUGH.

DEPENDING ON HOW YOU THINK ABOUT IT, A DRAW WAS THE BEST RESULT GIVEN THE SITUATION.

DO YOU THINK SO, PROFES-SOR KOGOE?

THAT WAS QUITE A FORCED DRAW, DON'T YOU THINK?

KEEP IT UP, IROHA IROHAZAKA, UNTIL I CAN BARELY RECOGNIZE YOU!

...IS BY FIENDISH MEANS, DEVELOPING THE USER INTO *CODE WEAPONRY.*

BIP

BEEP

?!

虚無の果てに夢を見る

暗号解けたなら言える台詞

籠われぬ蒼れ ×

...WAS SNEAKILY TRYING TO TELL ME SOME-THING...?

COULD IT BE THAT OMOMURO-SAN...

!

OH, OF COURSE. THE BATTERY DIED, BUT IF IT HAS POWER AGAIN...

HUH? THEY ACTIVATED? WHY NOW?

...BUT IT FEELS LIKE THE SOLUTION IS A CODE IN ITSELF...

THERE'S NO DOUBT IT'S A PANGRAM JUST LIKE THAT IROHA POEM...

STILL, WHAT COULD THAT CORRECT ANSWER MEAN...?

Q.X

Difficulty Level : ？？？？？

虚無の果てに夢を見ろ ×

暗号解けたなら言える台詞 ×

襲われぬ誉れ ×

ひねもす察知 ×

隠し部屋 ×

*Witness a dream at the ends of nothingness X
*If you've solved the puzzle, there's a line you can say X
*Unassailable honor X
*Inference, all day long X
*A hidden room X



CIPHER ACADEMY

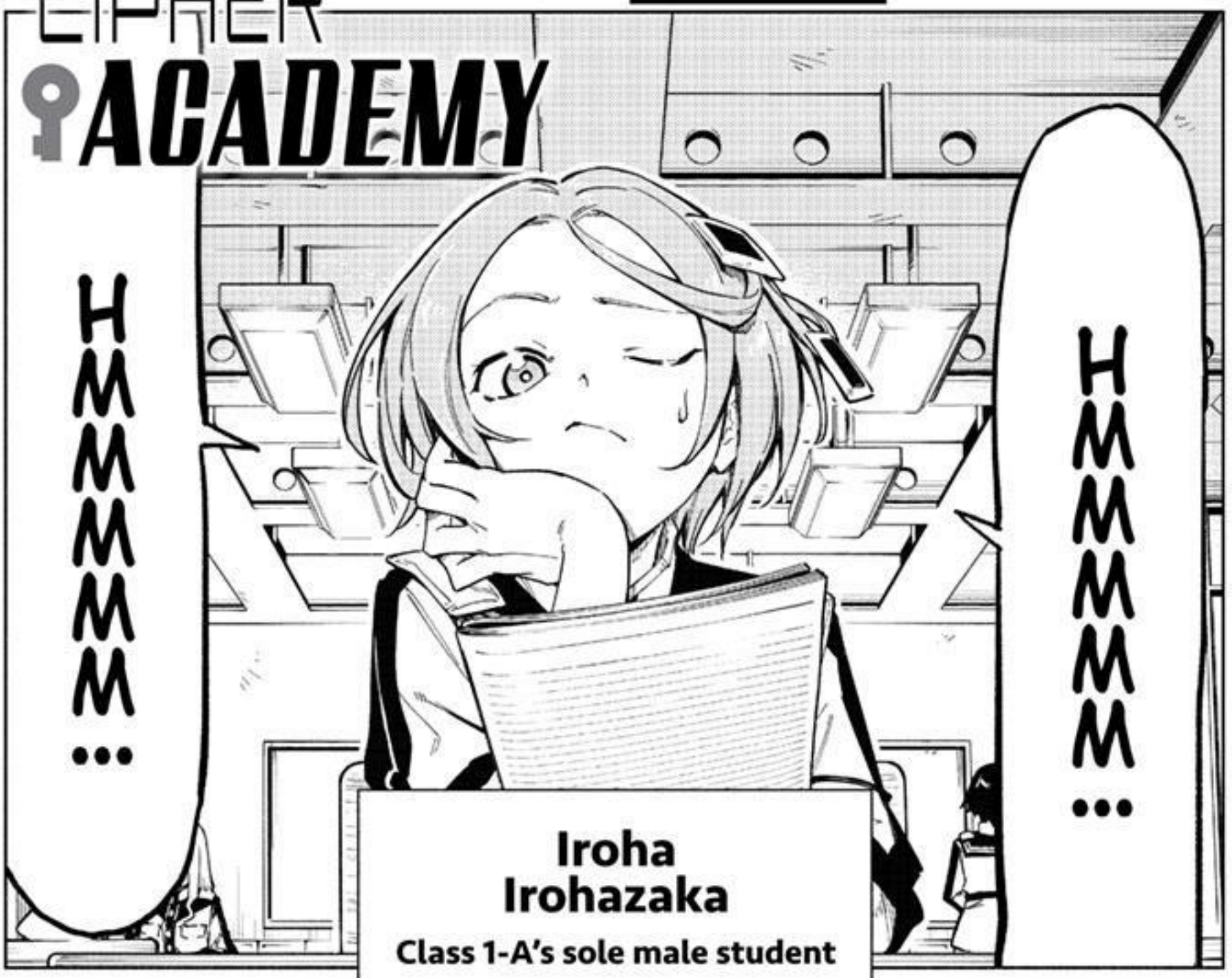
Chapter 4:

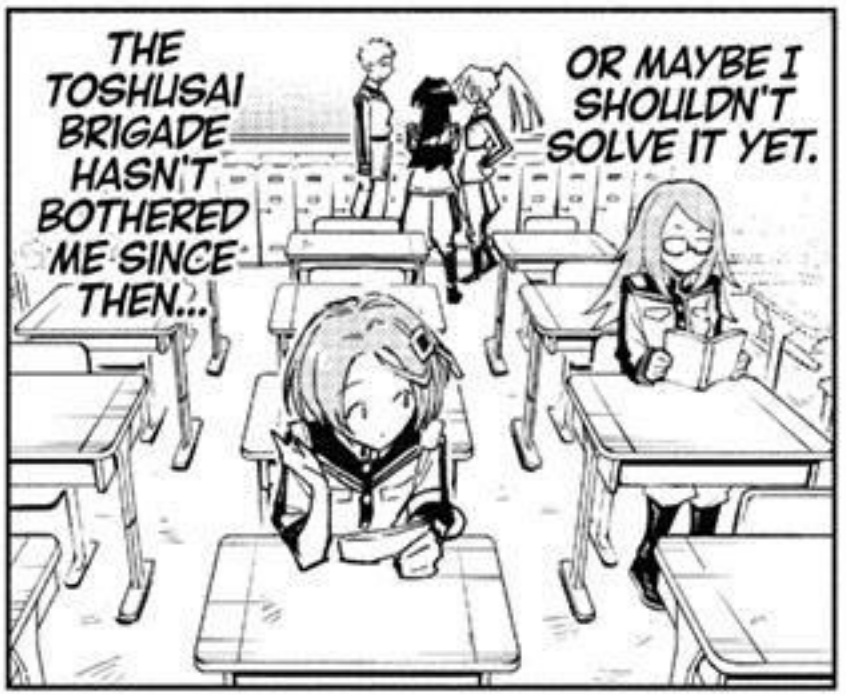
Undo the Cipher and Tighten Its Cords

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 5: Cipher Shipmates









Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation: Kumar Sivasubramanian
Lettering: Steve Dutro

KA

CHNK

?!

PLOP

UH?

WHA—?!

HUH?

UMITSU-BAME-SAN...?!

URK...

IROHAZAKA-KUN! OOH!

YOUR EYES ARE UNDER ARREST! ♪

Sunka Umitsubame

Class 1-A's sole *gyaru*

**Gyaru* is "gal" in Japanese and refers to a subculture of girls who follow a certain style of fashion.*

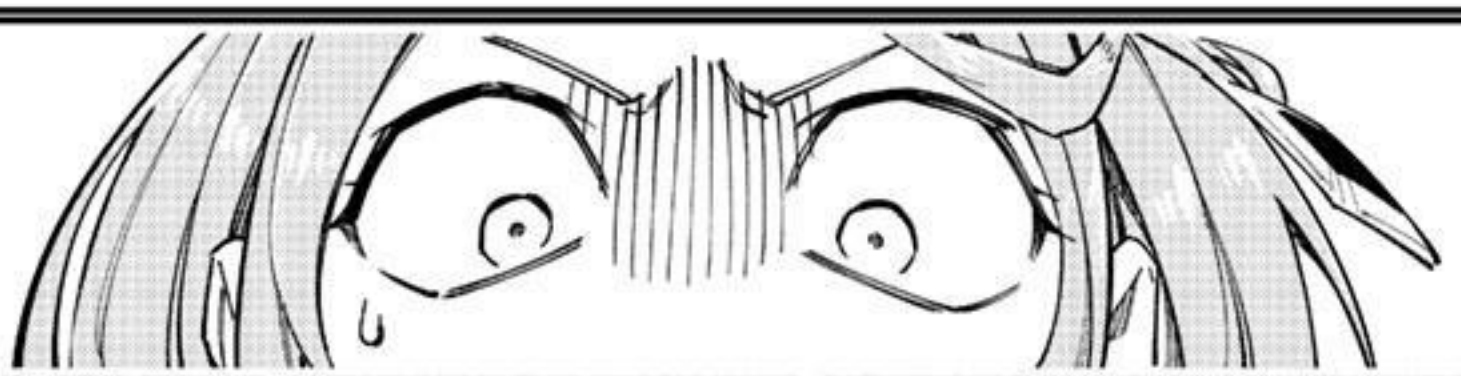
Q.06

Difficulty Level: ★★☆☆☆

...I'LL GIVE YOU THE KEY TO THIS GYARU'S HEART!

I'M SO HAPPY YOU REMEMBERED MY NAME.

AND IN RETURN...











Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Kogoe of class 1-M here. Can't say that too loudly though. I'll be in charge of some explanations from here on out. First of all, about the difficulty levels: a 1-star puzzle you can solve by looking at it, a 2-star you can solve if you think about it, a 3-star you can solve if you think hard about it, a 4-star you can't solve if you don't think about it, and a 5-star you can't solve if you don't think hard about it. Incidentally, the cipher on page 1 is a 5-? (you can't solve it no matter how much you think about it), so just forget about it.

...

RYULI-SEN, SEE? NAGARE-KAWA, SEE? RUKAWA, SEE? ♪

WELL, SEE YA! THIS GYARU IS BOUNCING.

♪

WHAT WAS THAT LITTLE SKIT ABOUT?

IT WAS SO LOW-LEVEL, I ALMOST KILLED YOU.

HA HA! FOR REAL.

WHILE THEY ALL MIGHT LOOK DIFFERENT BECAUSE OF *HOW THEY WERE LAID OUT*...

...THE TRICK IS THAT THEY WERE ALL THE SAME KEY, EXCEPT FOR B.

AND THIS GYARU NEVER SAID THE ANSWER IS ONE OF THOSE KEYS I LAID OUT.

IT COULD BE THAT HOLDING ON TO THE OTHER FOUR WOULD HAVE BEEN RIGHT.

THAT SAID, B ALONE...

Huh?

Huh?

...ISN'T NECESSARILY THE KEY TO THE ANSWER. ♪

カチャ KCHIK

カチャ KCHIK

YET DESPITE THAT, HE ARRIVED AT THE RIGHT ANSWER.

What the?! So you're supposed to turn it left!

HIS INSTINCTS ARE IMPRESSIVE, DON'T YOU THINK?

カキャン CHANK

...

I WON-DER.

HE JUST LOOKS LIKE SOME MINDLESS GRUNT.

THAT MAKES HIM EVEN MORE DANGER-OUS.

TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL...

...WE NEED TO NIP YOUNG BUDS LIKE THAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The thing here is, in this situation, even if you think key B intuitively just feels right, it's a question of whether or not you're willing to die on the hill for that guess. Incidentally, the gyaru on the previous page is not bouncing, but is being more like the character Doronjo. Celebrate the release of the first *Slam Dunk* movie! Oh, by the way, I'm a Mitsui fan.

NOW THEN, IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE CIPHER ACADEMY OPENED...

...AND I WOULD LIKE TO DECIDE ON THIS CLASS'S *LEADING PRIVATE.*

SHOULD YOU HOLD THIS IMPORTANT POSITION, YOU'LL BE ENTRUSTED WITH THE LIVES OF YOUR COMRADES IN ARMS.

THOSE OF YOU WHO BELIEVE IN YOUR-SELVES...

...SHOW ME *YOU CAN DO IT.*

Shibori Nikueda

Class 1-A's sole chief instructor

CLASS LEADING PRIVATE!

"TAKING DOWN THOSE LYING CLASSMATES..."

"...AND SECURING THE POSITION OF CLASS LEADING PRIVATE."

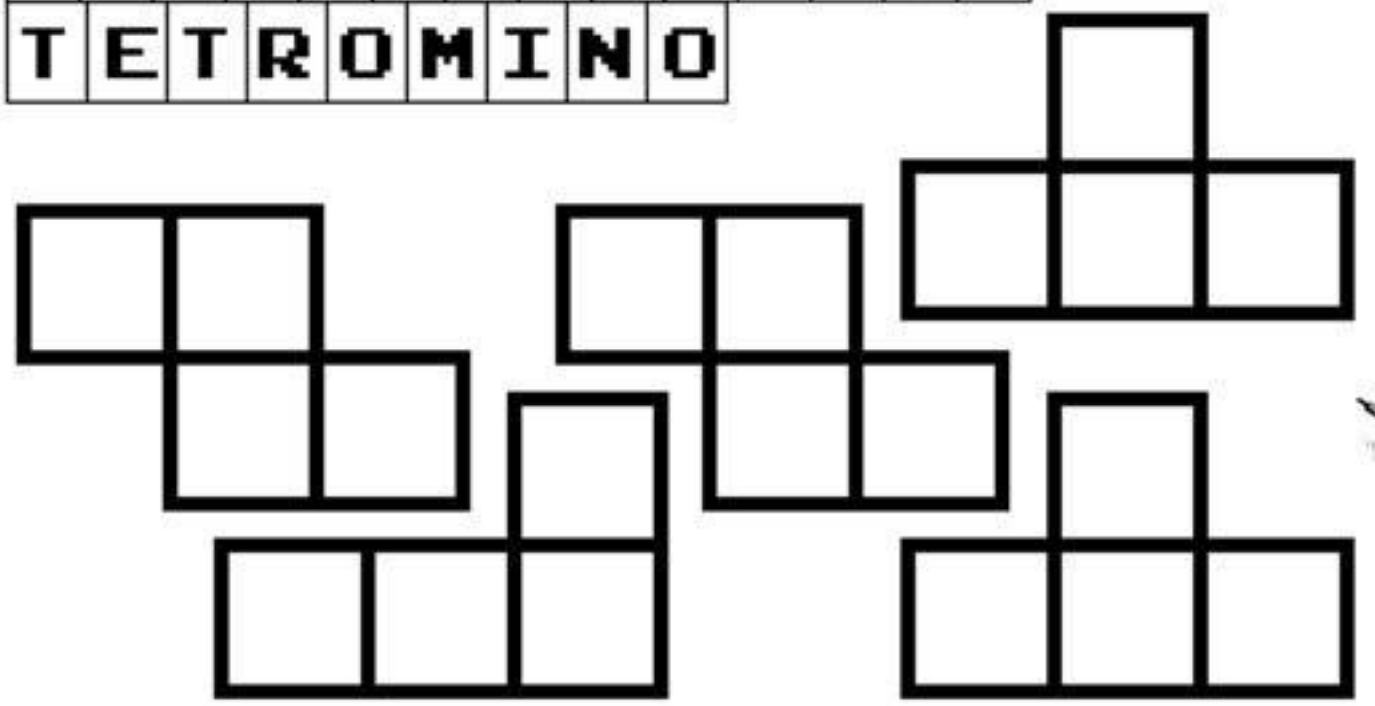
KOGOE MENTIONED THAT BEFORE!

Q.07

Difficulty Level: ★★★☆☆

Seating Change

TETROMINO









Kyora Toshusai
Class 1-A's sole villainous young lady

DONE.

?!

HEH HEH HEH!

THAT WAS FAST.

AS EXPECTED...

VERY GOOD, THEN.

LINE UP IN FRONT OF THE BOARD IN ORDER OF WHEN YOU SOLVED THE PUZZLE.

EVEN I CAN SEE THIS STUDENT WORKS AT A FRIGHTENING SPEED.

SHE'S THE HEIRESS TO THE ARMS MANUFACTURER KICK ATTACK PLANNING.

SHE'S THE TOP CONTENDER FOR CLASS LEADING PRIVATE...

YES, MA'AM.

KISS...

...MY...

...ASS.

BUT, TOSHIISAI-SAN...

...THE NOUVEAU RICHE WHO MAKES HASTE, MAKES LESS, YOU KNOW?

I COULD NEVER *KEEP UP* WITH SPEEDS LIKE THAT.

Iesuno Nohime

Class 1-A's sole member of nobility

IF SOMEONE FINISHED IT, THAT MEANS IT CAN BE SOLVED!

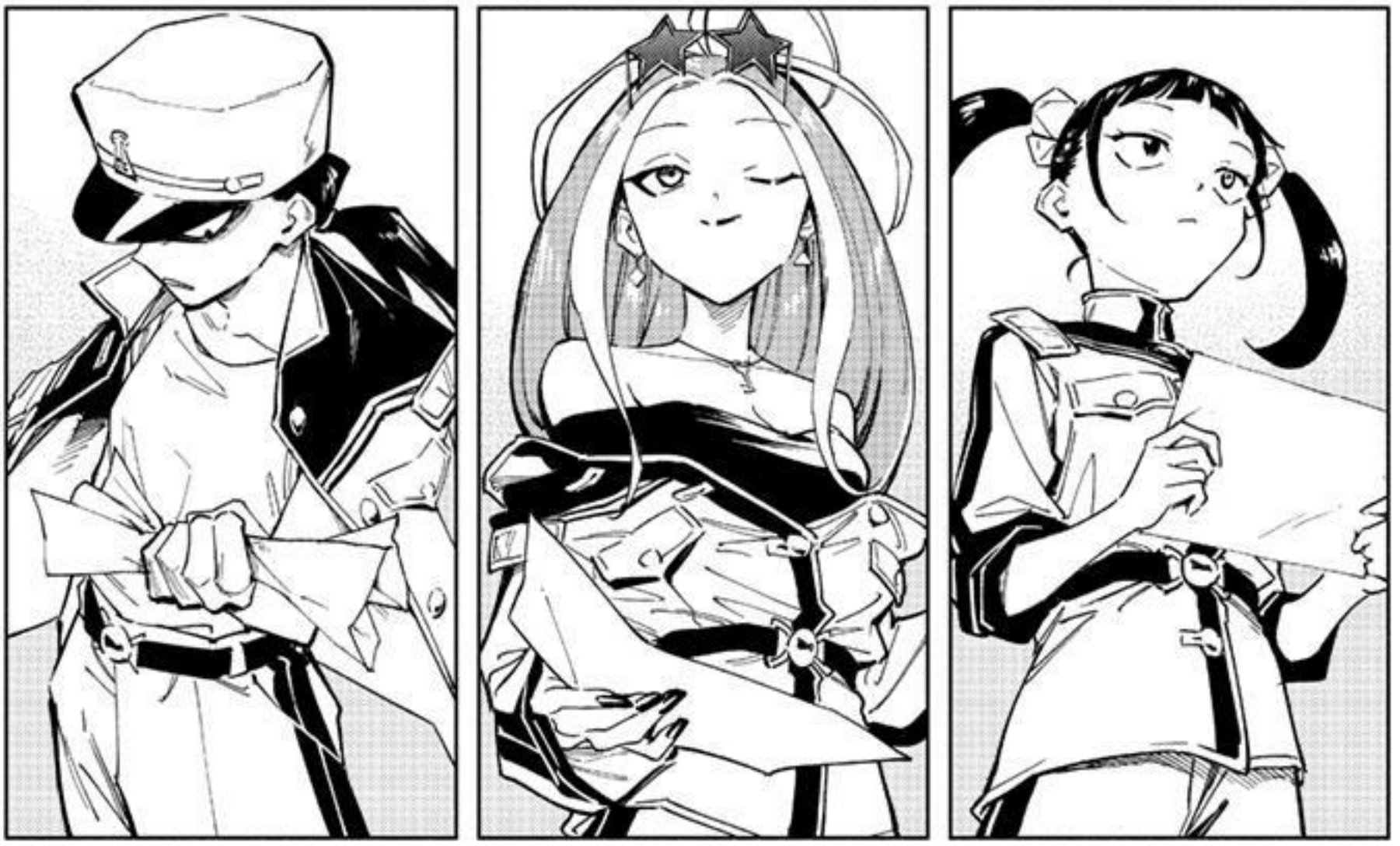
THIS IS NO TIME TO GET DISTRACTED!

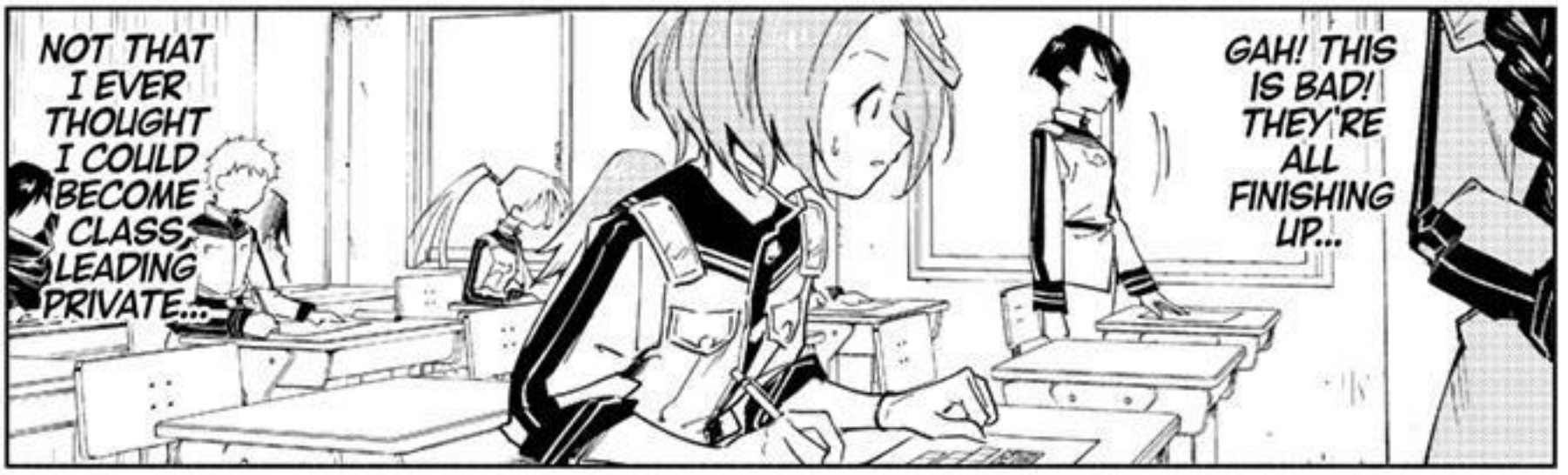
...IT WON'T BE **INTERESTING.**

MOST IMPORTANTLY! UNLESS I SOLVE SOMETHING THIS SIMPLE ON MY OWN...

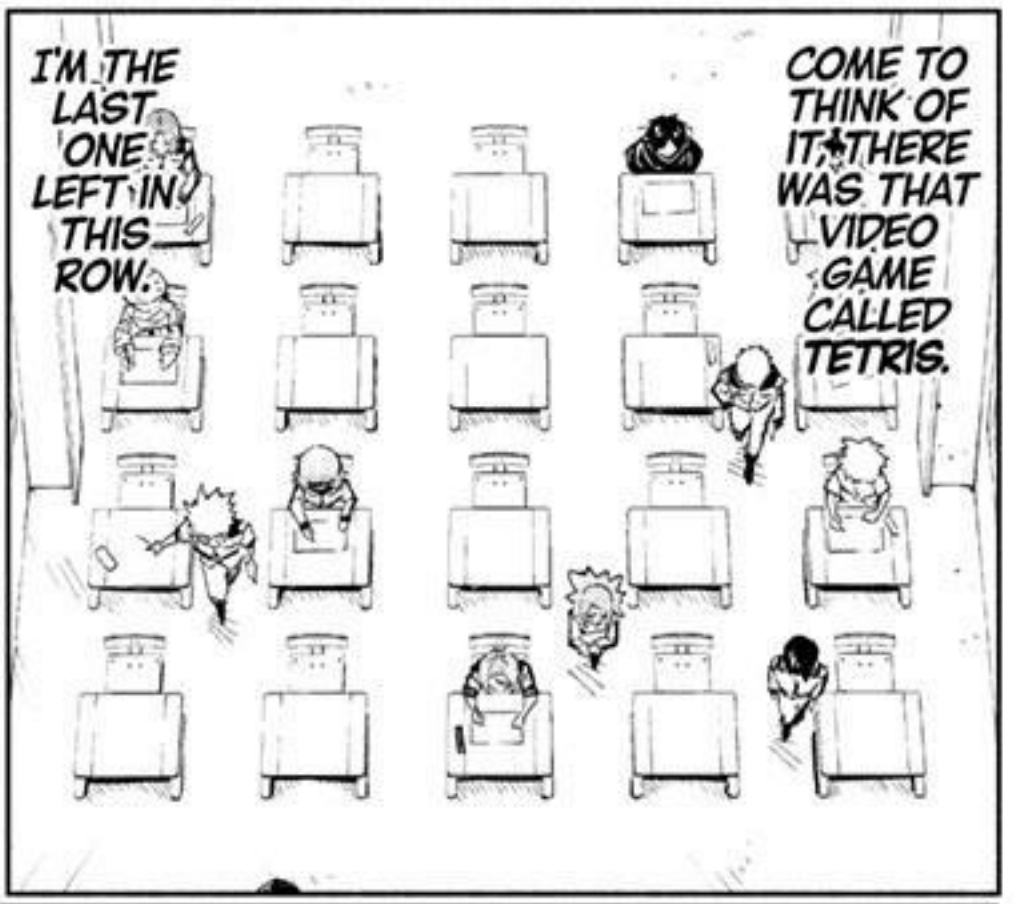
...AND I CAN'T ALWAYS DEPEND ON THEM.

IF I PUT ON KOGOE'S GLASSES, I COULD SOLVE IT IN A FLASH, BUT THE BATTERY'S STILL OUT...









Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Probably don't need to add any more explanation regarding *Tetris*. But if I may show off my vast knowledge, it would seem that the word "Tetris" was coined from "tetromino" and "tennis." As for the "fish organ," perhaps that comes from the similar-sounding Japanese words *toro* and *mino*, meaning "tuna" and "tripe." Or from the "tetrodotoxin" of the puffer fish's internal organs. Iroha sure has a unique way of thinking.

PENS DOWN, THOSE OF YOU WHO STILL HAVEN'T SOLVED IT!

ALL RIGHT! THAT'LL DO!

YUGATA-SAN...?

CAN'T BELIEVE THERE ARE SEVEN STUDENTS WHO COULDN'T SOLVE IT...

I WAS SURE I'D BE THE LAST ONE.

HOW SURPRISING...

...

...IT WAS SELF-EVIDENT THAT WE WERE TO PRODUCE A SEATING CHART.

FROM THE TITLE, "NEW SEATING TETROMINO" ...

SHOW US. YOU CAN WRITE YOUR ANSWER ON THE BOARD.

TOSHUSAI!

ALL RIGHT, LET'S CHECK OUR ANSWERS.

Anonymity Requested
匿名希望
Umitsubame
海燕
Oboro
朧
Kasuri
絣
Mamushishi-shimeki
Nutaba
沼田場
Nohime
濃姫
Omomuro
徐
Yugata
夕方
Mokuren
目々蓮
Toshusai
東洲斎
Koshibai
小芝井
Yosaimura
要塞村
Karigane
雁音
Hahakura
母倉
Yorokawa
羊狼川
Batayama
牡丹山
Irohazaka
いろは坂
Namasu
膾

IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE...

...BUT IT'S THE *MODEL ANSWER.*

Seating Change
TETROMINO

SHF

I GUESS THAT'S A QUALITY TO BE EXPECTED FROM SOMEONE AIMING TO BECOME A LEADER...

OH, RIGHT. YOU NEED TO REMEMBER THE NAMES OF EVERY CLASSMATE TO BE ABLE TO SOLVE THIS PUZZLE.

I WON'T SAY WHO IT WAS, BUT THIS IS SOME WONDERFUL QUICK THINKING.

ALL RIGHT, THEN.

THERE'S A MASTER ARTIST IN OUR CLASS!

INCIDENTALLY, ONE STUDENT ILLUSTRATED THE ANSWER.

BUT WAIT. THAT GIRL...

SEEMS LIKE YUGATA-SAN...

SO MAYBE THE ONES WHO DIDN'T SOLVE IT DIDN'T GET STUCK ON THE TETROMINO PART...

PLEASE PICK A *PARTNER* TO TEAM UP WITH.

?!

OF COURSE, NOW COMES THE MAIN EVENT.

THE SELECTION OF THE LEADING PRIVATE FROM THOSE WHO SOLVED THE TETROMINO.

YOU CAN CHOOSE WHO YOU PLEASE— WHETHER IT'S A CLOSE FRIEND OR AN ENEMY YOU DON'T WANT TO FIGHT.

YOU MAY BE WONDERING IF YOU CAN PICK FROM THE SEVEN WHO ARE SEATED.

IF THEY REFUSE, MOVE TO THE BACK OF THE LINE.

IF WE DO THAT, THEN WE'RE NOT DECIDING THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE...

PAIRING UP IN A CLASS WITH AN ODD NUMBER OF STUDENTS...

IT WON'T BE THE LAST IN RANK OR THE LAST IN LINE.

BUT THERE ARE 19 IN THIS CLASS, RIGHT?

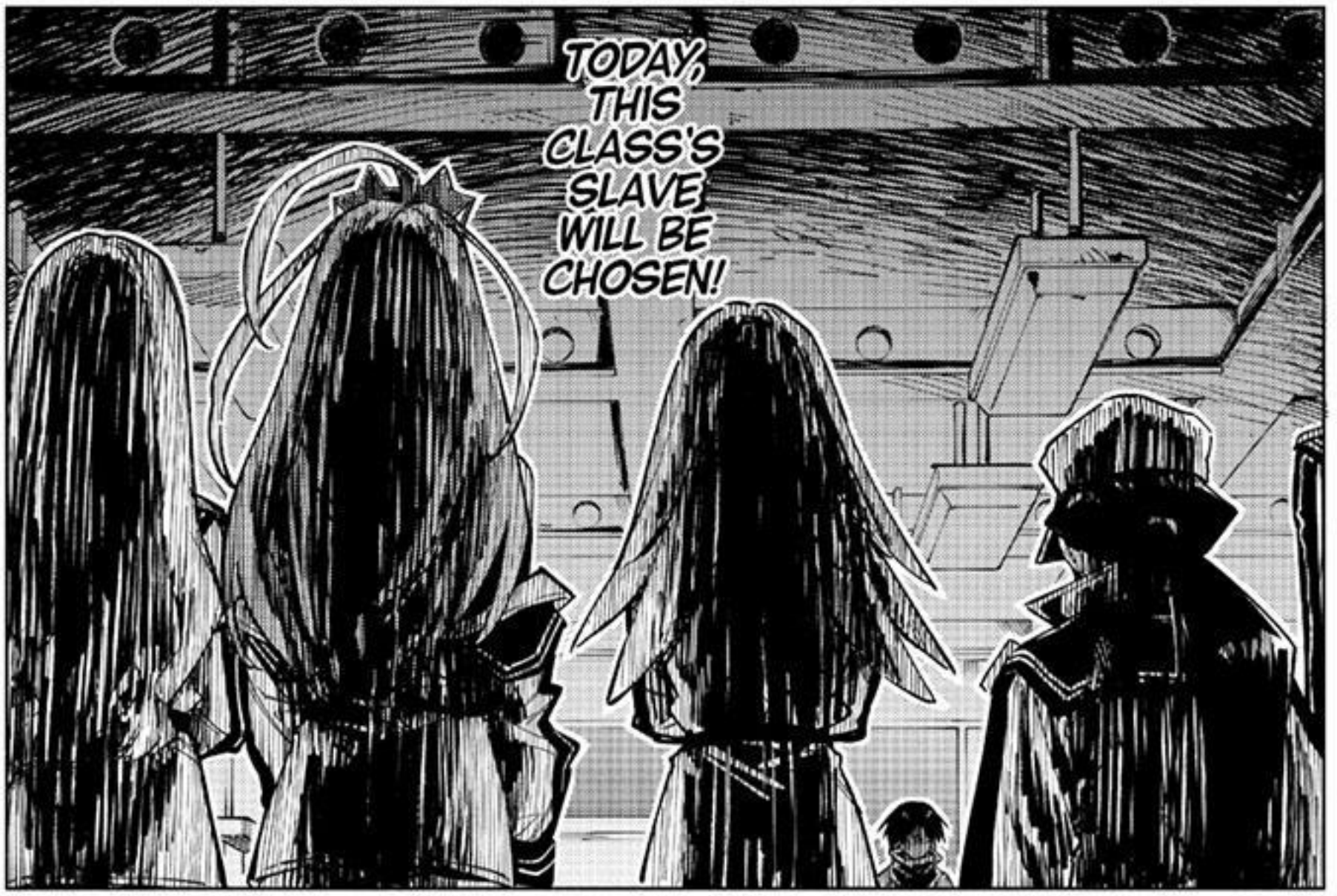
HM...?

I DIDN'T THINK CLASS LEADING PRIVATE WOULD BE CHOSEN BY A TETRONIMO...

...BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING TO TEAM UP.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

This tetramino is a puzzle in which blocks of four squares (polyominoes) are used to create a given shape. Even if you don't remember the names of all the students introduced in the second chapter, you can answer the problem with illustrations by referring to page 6 of this chapter, which is perhaps a kindness on Instructor Nikueda's part.


TODAY, THIS CLASS'S SLAVE WILL BE CHOSEN!






HUH...? M...
ME?


?!
WELL THEN, I CHOOSE IROHAZAKA-KUN.

I'M OVER-JOYED! I'M HONORED! I AM!

WHAT? DON'T LIKE THE IDEA?

WELL, THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS TO IT THOUGH ...

...A MANSERVANT IS IDEAL, RATHER THAN A HARD-TO-HANDLE HONOR STUDENT.

NO, HE'S A SOLID CHOICE. IROHAZAKA-KUN BASICALLY GOT THE RIGHT ANSWER, AND IF IT'S A TEAM BATTLE...

Tayu Yugata

Class 1-A's sole ponytail

...THIS IS A SURPRISING CHOICE, INDEED.

EVEN IF IT MAKES STRATEGIC SENSE TO NOT CHOOSE US...

Yukako Omomuro

Class 1-A's sole extremely short haircut

KOGOE TOLD ME TO GO AROUND AND GREET EVERYONE IN CLASS...

...SO IN THE END, IT'S LIKE I HAVE KOGOE TO THANK FOR THIS TOO...

...BUT YOU'VE MEMORIZED EVERYONE'S NAMES NOW...

YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW MY NAME THE OTHER DAY...

YOU'RE AMAZING, TOSHIISAI-SAN.

...EVERY NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON THERE IS ON YOUR HEAD.

EEP!

DEAR MASTER... I WILL DROP...

GWOOM

HEH HEH! WOW. YOU'VE GOT YOUR NICE SIDE TOO, HUH, TOSHIISAI-SAN?!

I REFLECT ON MY MISTAKES ...

...AND LEARN FROM THEM.

I THOUGHT I APOLOGIZED FOR THAT.



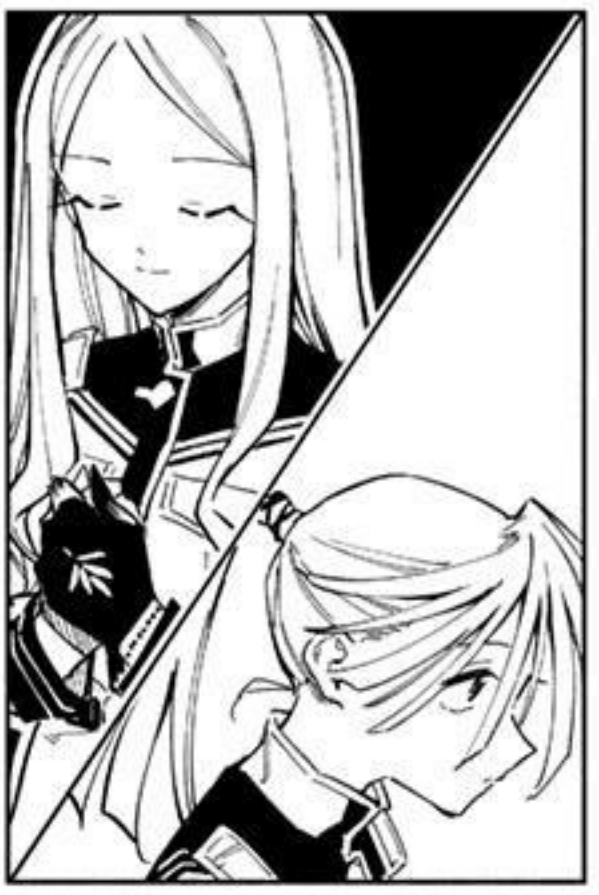


ONCE THOSE WHO HAD SOLVED THE TETROMINO HAD COMPLETED THEIR PARTNER SELECTIONS...

...THE PAIRS WERE ARRANGED AS FOLLOWS.





















Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

I suppose on the previous page, the top ones are the selectors and the bottom ones are the selected. Yukako and Tayu are well spread apart. Personally, I'm concerned about the pairing of Mamushihishimeki and Anonymity Requested. Well, this commentary corner is a remedy for me not being in 1-A scenes, so I don't know how long this will last, but for now it should be in next week's edition, so please check it out. I've been your host, Kogoe Horagatoge! Can't say that too loudly though.

AND MAKE TEAM IROHAZAKA A *TRIO*!

IT'S MY TURN NEXT...

...SO I'LL SELECT KASURI-SAN.

!!

A TRIO ?!

IS...

IS THAT POS-SIBLE ?!

OF COURSE IT'S POSSIBLE. IT'S ELEMEN-TARY, ISN'T IT?

...ONE GROUP CAN *BECOME* A THREE-SOME. IT'S A SUPER-ADVAN-TAGEOUS RULE!

Three heads are better than two!

IN A CLASS WITH AN ODD NUMBER OF STUDENTS, WHEN YOU PAIR UP...

THE *LEFTOVER* BECOMES A *PLUS-ONE*, HUH?

IT IS CERTAINLY A QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP NOWADAYS NOT TO CREATE HIERARCHIES, BUT...

HMPH ...

YOU NEED TO NIP *EYES* LIKE THAT RIGHT AWAY.

IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID, TSUBAME OF THE SWALLOW.

Soboro Oboro

Class 1-A's sole FYEO (For Your Eyes Only)

...SUCH LEADERSHIP WILL FOSTER ENEMIES.

...RIGHT NOW.

LET'S KILL THEM WITH CODES...

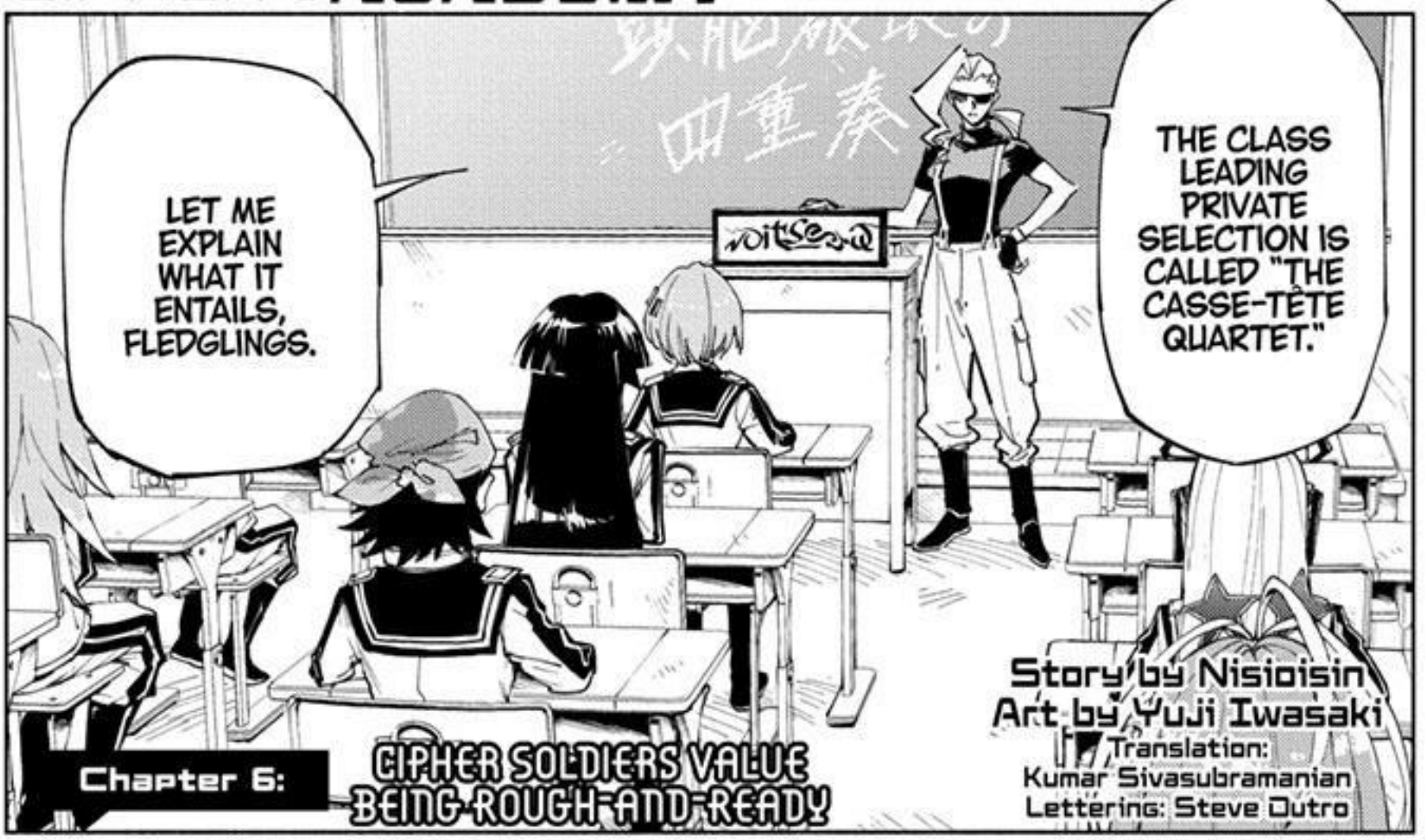
THE CASSE-TÊTE QUARTET!

IT'S CALLED...

WELL, THEN. AT LONG LAST, I WILL REVEAL THE THEME OF THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE SELECTION PROCESS.

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY



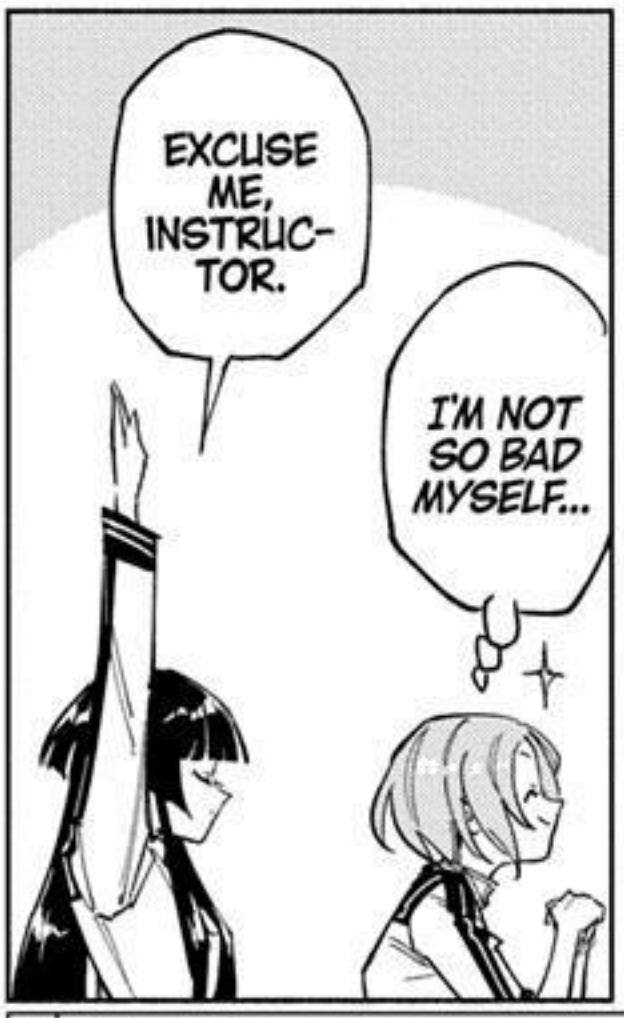
Q.08

Difficulty Level: ★★☆☆☆

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

noitseuq

"NOITSEUQ"...





Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Happy Holidays! A word or phrase that reads the same backward and forward is a ***palindrome***. In this case, it changes based on direction, so strictly speaking it's an ***emordnilap***, but honestly, I've never heard this word myself before.

TO REPLACE THE *HORIZONTAL WRITING* WITH *VERTICAL WRITING.*

SO THEN *WHY DID WE READ IT BACKWARD?*

EVEN A COMPLETE IDIOT COULD SEE THAT.

?!

READ BACKWARD, IT'S "QUESTION."

...YOU'LL NEED TO SOLVE AMBIGRAMS LIKE THIS IN A FLASH.

HOW ELEGANT... SINCE YOU'RE AIMING TO BECOME CLASS LEADING PRIVATE...

THANK GOODNESS IT WASN'T ME AGAINST HER THIS TIME.

THAT'S TOSHUSAI-SAN FOR YOU...

USING THE SAME METHOD ...

NOW THEN, TOSHUSAI...

READ VERTICALLY, THE *REVERSED QUESTION*, WHICH BECOMES "QUESTION"...

...GIVES THE *ANSWER*, WHICH IS "ANSWER."

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

In contrast, calligraphy that can be read from the top or bottom is an ambigram. We had one on the *Jump* cover of the first chapter. This time, the pattern is "whether read horizontally or vertically." It's one of those reviews of past exam questions that Yukako likes.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Perhaps I don't need to explain what a jigsaw is? Hee hee hee! I'm figuring these things out as we go along, you see.

A JIGSAW PUZZLE?!

CHRRAK

...EVEN IF IT'S IN *PIECES* LIKE THIS?

...CAN YOU SOLVE IT JUST AS QUICKLY...

...AND PUT IT TOGETHER INTO A CODE YOU CAN SOLVE, THEN YOU'LL BE USELESS ON THE FRONT LINE.

THAT MAY BE SO, BUT THAT'S WHAT CODES ARE.

IF YOU CAN'T SCRAPE TOGETHER *FRAGMENTARY* INFORMATION ...

FIRST YOU NEED TO PUT TOGETHER THE JIGSAW PUZZLE...

...AND THEN SOLVE THE CODE.

...

NO, IT'S NOT POS-SIBLE.

SO MAYBE WE DON'T NEED TO WORK IN PAIRS?

MEANING, THIS JIGSAW PLUS CODE MAKES IT A DUO?

BAM

...BUT THEY ALL HAVE A PLAIN BACK-GROUND, SO TRY YOUR BEST TO SOLVE IT.

IF YOU CAN PUT THE PUZZLE TOGETHER, THAT IS.

I'D LIKE YOU ALL TO TAKE ON THESE JIGSAW PUZZLES.

EACH ONE IS DIFFERENT ...

CHR

?!

AA

NO NEED TO WORRY. WITH THIS, IT'S NOW A...

...QUARTET.

RARAK

NOW IT'S A TASK WORTHY OF TEAMS, ISN'T IT?

TWO JIGSAWS ALL MIXED UP MAKES IT TWICE AS DIFFICULT.

...WE'RE A GROUP OF THREE, SO IF WE DIVIDE THE WORK...

DOESN'T SEEM LIKE AN EASY TASK AT ALL EVEN WITH TWO PEOPLE, BUT...

...IS WAY MORE THAN TWO TIMES. IT'S CRAZY TIMES!

BAHAHAH! THE DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF MIXED-UP JIGSAWS...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Playing off of "two times" with "crazy times"... Well, it doesn't really matter if you find it funny or not.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

"Casse-tête" is a French word mainly meaning "jigsaw puzzle," but the direct translation is "head breaker." I can't say that too loudly though.

?!

EXCUSE ME, INSTRUCTOR NIKUEDA.

I BELIEVE THERE WERE *SOME COWARDS* WHO EXPLOITED THE RULES AND PUT TOGETHER A THREE-PERSON CELL...

SHOULDN'T THAT GROUP'S BRAIN-BREAKING CASSE-TÊTE BE A *THREE-PUZZLE* MIX?

DID I DO SOMETHING TO MAKE HER DISLIKE ME?

HUH? WHY'S THAT SCARY-LOOKING KID BEING SO MEAN? I THAT'S ~~OBORO-SAN, RIGHT?



HMPH... I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY. UNBELIEV-ABLE...

THERE'S NO WAY THE INSTRUCTOR WOULD DO SOME-THING THAT UNFAIR....

パカ PKAK

SO FORMING A GROUP OF THREE'S HAD THE OPPOSITE EFFECT!

WAIT. A MIX OF THREE... ADDING UP THE NUMBER OF PIECES, THAT'S 1,500, ISN'T IT?

THOOSH

ドバ

500

500

WHA—?! THAT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN!

YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT. THANK YOU FOR POINTING THAT OUT.

NATURALLY TEAM IROHAZAKA WILL HAVE A MIX OF THREE JIGSAW PUZZLES.

"AND SECURE THE POSITION OF CLASS LEADING PRIVATE."

...SHE DOESN'T WANT IT-TO BE ME OR TOSHIUSAI-SAN?!

IS SHE GOING THIS FAR BECAUSE SHE WANTS TO BE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE THAT BADLY? OR COULD IT BE...

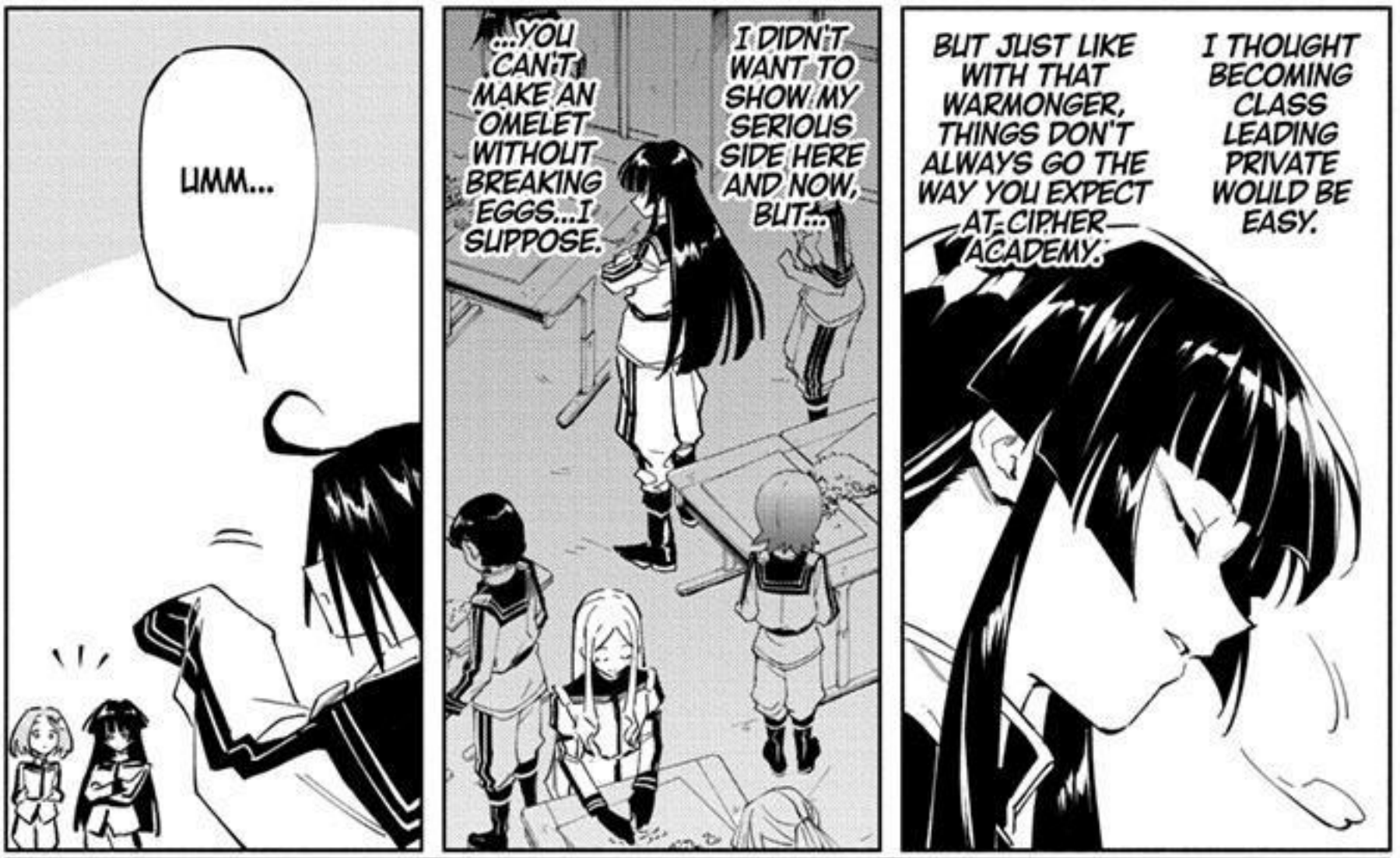
...THE CASSE-TÊTE QUARTET.

IT IS NOW TIME FOR THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE SELEC-TION...


BEGIN
!!
500
PURPLE







Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The villain girl, in order to make her threat easily understood, leads her idiom with "Do you want to be told...?" But since those words mean something like "to hurt" in the Kansai dialect, "Do you want to be told about your back teeth" could also mean "Shall I hurt your back teeth?"

YOU CAN'T!

RIGHT. IF YOU DID—

WE'LL JUST SAY IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE...

I NEVER REALLY WANTED OR ASKED TO BE PUT IN A GROUP.

SHOULD I JUST QUIT?

I'M NOT LETTING YOU LEAVE EVEN IF YOU ASK, SORRY!

YOU'RE ON THIS TEAM BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO BE!

THAT SAID...AS A LEADER, IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD TO CUT OFF A MEMBER ONCE THEY'RE ALREADY ON THE TEAM.

THAT INCLUDES IROHAZAKA-KUN...

THANKS TO TOSHIISAI-SAN!

HMF!

IT'S OKAY. WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS SOMEHOW!

WHO, ME?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

As for the fact that you refused my invitation and yet willingly accepted that villain girl...we'll talk about it the next time I see you.

OKAY. IN THAT CASE...

..GET BEHIND ME...

...AND STAY OUT OF MY WAY.

!!

HANG ON, KASURI-SAN.

YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE OVER...

...I THINK IT'S OKAY...

...

OH! SORRY, BUT...

SO HOW'S A GIRL WHO CAN'T EVEN DO A TETROMINO GOING TO DO A JIGSAW?

IT'S LIKE BOTAYAMA-SAN SAID, BUT I SAW IT TOO.

KASURI-SAN DIDN'T EVEN LIFT HER PENCIL IN THE PRELIMINARY.

?

HOW SO?

OKAY?

...BUT *THE COM-PLETED ANSWER SHEET.*

WHAT I SAW WASN'T A *PENCIL* ON KASURI-SAN'S DESK...

...WHEN YOU LOOKED AT HER?

...

WHAT IF SHE HAD ALREADY SOLVED IT...

PAK
PAK
PAK

PAK PAK PAK PAK PAK

SO AMAZING!

SO FAST... OR RATHER...

...IS BEING ASSEMBLED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE WITHOUT MUCH EFFORT.

THE MIXED-UP PUZZLES, WHICH WE WERE GOING TO HAVE TO PUT TOGETHER BY GOING THROUGH EVERY COMBINATION...

PAK PAK PAK PAK PAK

TOSHUSAI-SAN CAN THINK FAST...

...BUT KASURI-SAN MOVES FASTER!

PAK PAK PAK

...CHOSE HER WITHOUT ANY HESITATION.

AND YET IROHAZAKA...

BUT THEY HESITATED TO PICK SOMEONE WHO ANSWERED THE QUESTION BUT DIDN'T DECLARE IT.

THERE MUST BE OTHER STUDENTS WHO NOTICED KASURI'S ULTRAFAST COMPLETED ANSWER SHEET TOO.

SHE WAS ALSO FAST WITH HER CROSS-WORD.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Thinking in terms of logic puzzles, if Ensa Kasuri had put down her pencil (having finished solving the puzzle) when the villainess who had completed the puzzle was at the blackboard looking back, it would be almost a tie at best. It's like a race between a calculator and an abacus. By the way, *sloth* means "lazy person."

WHA...? KASURI-SAN?!

TEAM IROHAZAKA IS A PRETTY GOOD THREE-PERSON CELL, HUH? ♡

AND IROHAZAKA DECIDES QUICKLY.

TOSHIISAI THINKS QUICKLY. KASURI MOVES QUICKLY.

...I STARTED WANTING TO DO SOMETHING MYSELF.

WELL.

SWISH

BUT EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T ASK...

I KNEW THAT, SO I THOUGHT I'D WITH-DRAW.

I'M NOT SUITED TO BEING CLASS LEADING PRIVATE.

I TEND TO BE GLOOMY AND WEAK.

SORRY.

I GOT A BIT CARRIED AWAY.

HEH HEH HEH.

A MEETING BY CHANCE IS PREORDAINED, AS THEY SAY.

Ensa Kasuri

Catchphrase:
"A meeting by chance is preordained, as they say." (When angry: "This too is some kind of resentment!")





Q.09

Difficulty Level: ★★★★☆

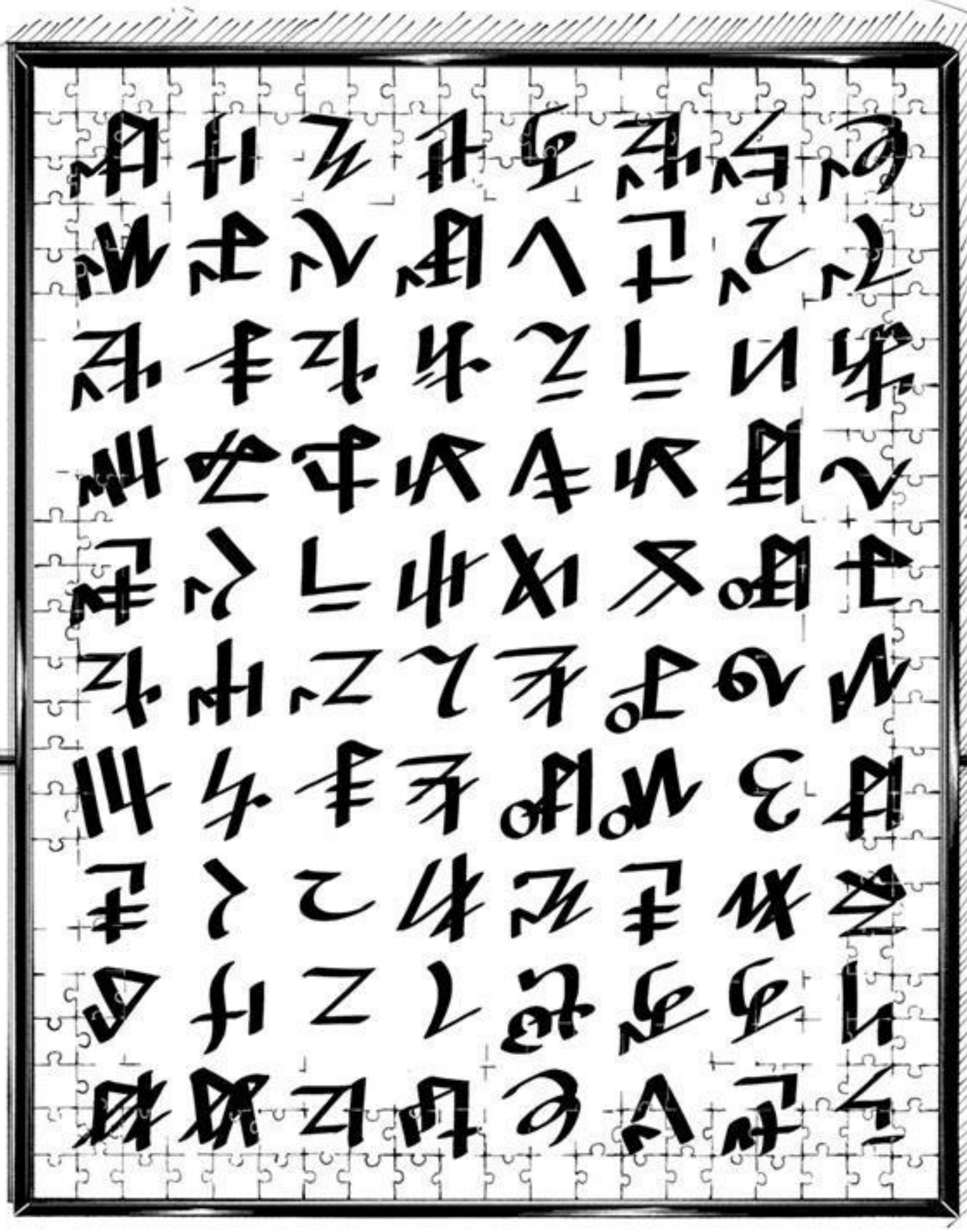
Q.09

Difficulty Level: ★★★★☆







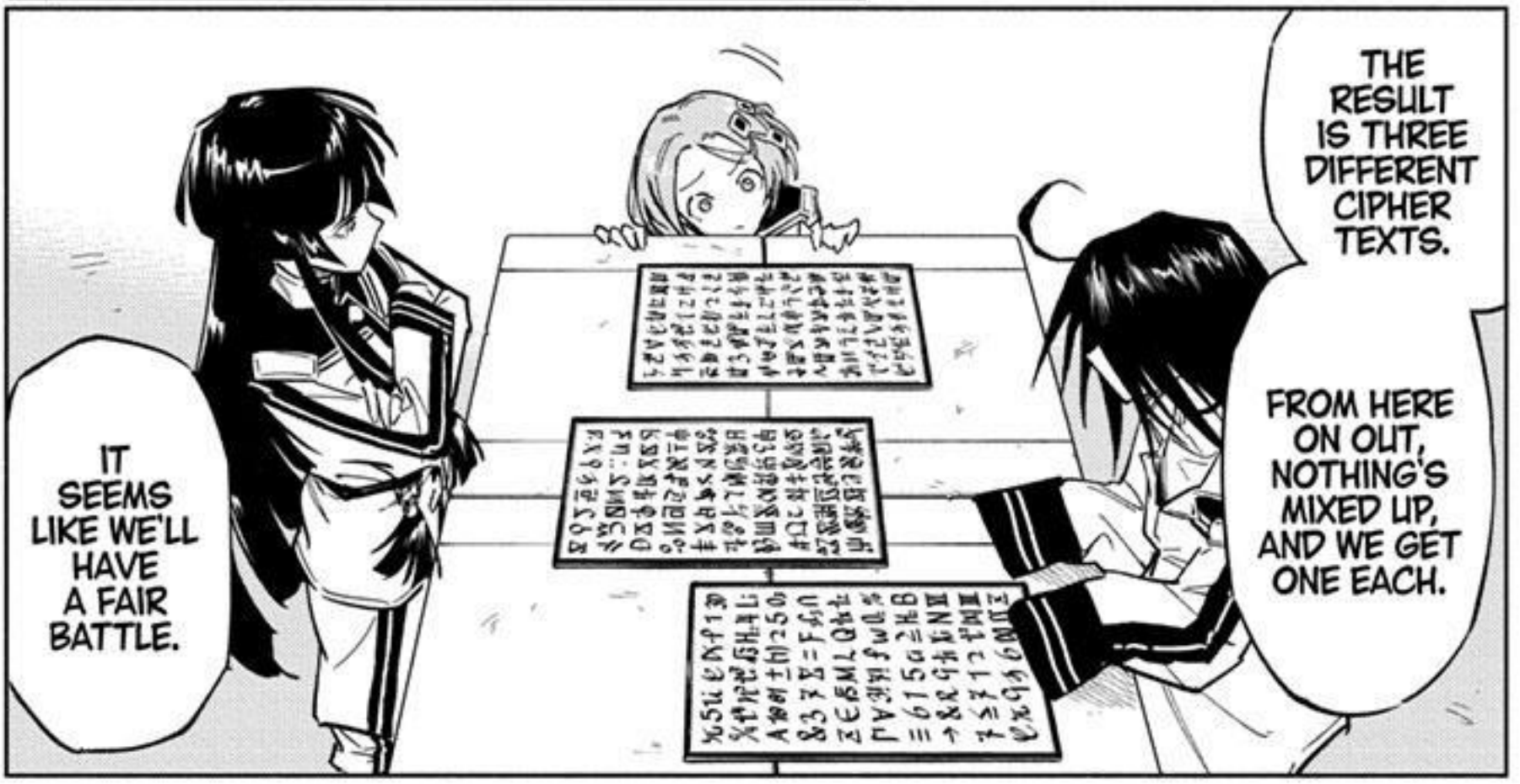


Q.09

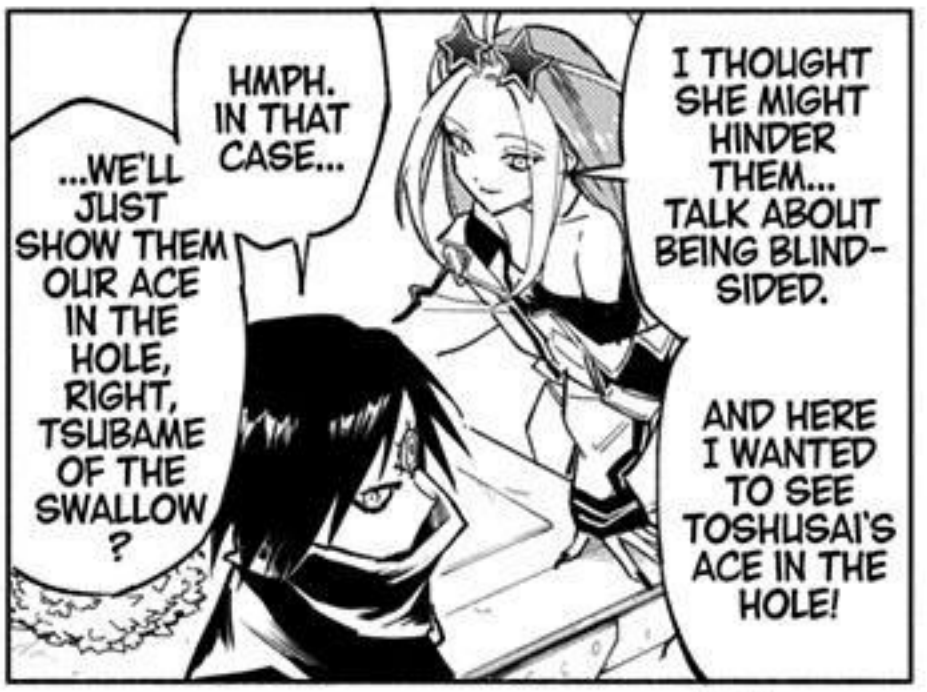
Difficulty Level: ★★★★☆

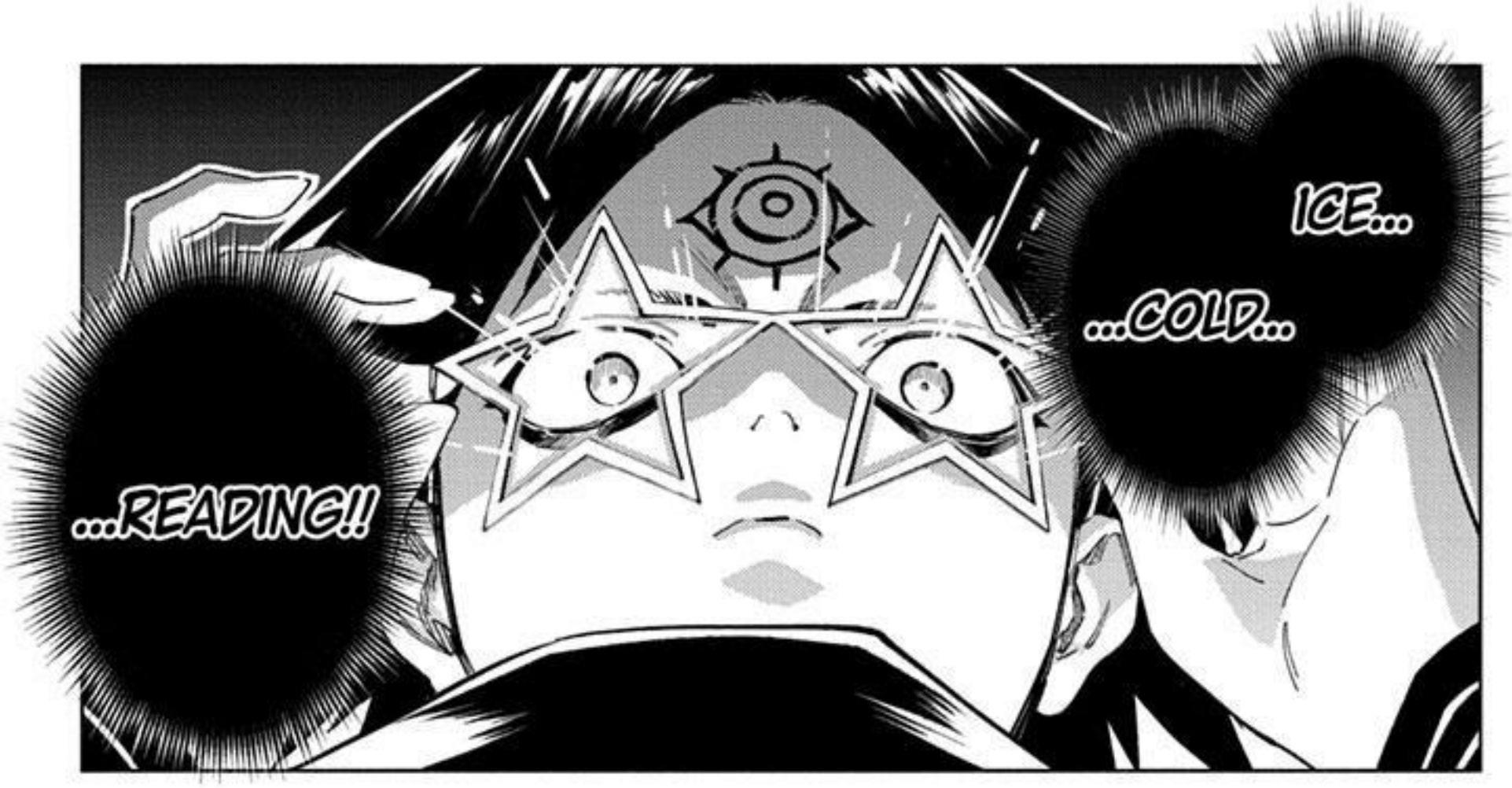
Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

What the—? Three puzzle texts and they're all Q.09? Is that a mistake, or... (If it's a mistake, I'll apologize in the margins in the next issue!) All right then, have a happy New Year!









To be continued!

...READING !!

...COLD...

ICE...

...SO I WON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM THEM.

I KNOW THESE COLORED GLASSES CAN ONLY SORT BY COLOR...

HM...

WHAT OBORO-SAN'S WEARING ...

H-HEY, TOSHU-SAI-SAN!

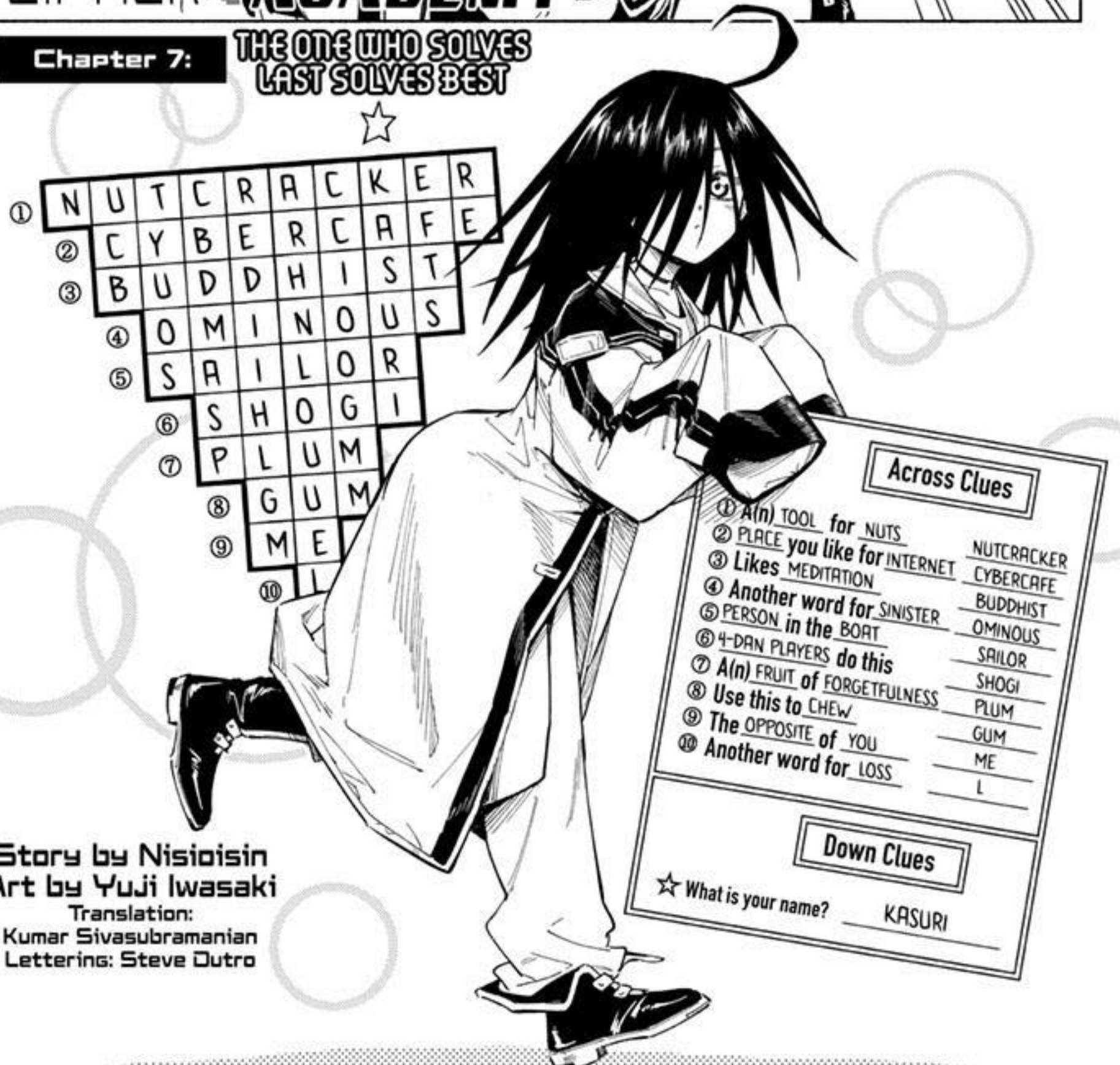
CHANCES OF WINNING ARE VERY LIKELY!

BUT THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR ME.



CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 7: THE ONE WHO SOLVES LAST SOLVES BEST



①	N	U	T	C	R	A	C	K	E	R
②		C	Y	B	E	R	C	A	F	E
③		B	U	D	D	H	I	S	T	
④			O	M	I	N	O	U	S	
⑤			S	A	I	L	O	R		
⑥				S	H	O	G	I		
⑦				P	L	U	M			
⑧					G	U	M			
⑨					M	E				
⑩					L					

Across Clues

① A(n) TOOL for NUTS — NUTCRACKER
② PLACE you like for INTERNET — CYBERCAFE
③ Likes MEDITATION — BUDDHIST
④ Another word for SINISTER — OMINOUS
⑤ PERSON in the BOAT — SAILOR
⑥ 4-DAN PLAYERS do this — SHOGI
⑦ A(n) FRUIT of FORGETFULNESS — PLUM
⑧ Use this to CHEW — GUM
⑨ The OPPOSITE of YOU — ME
⑩ Another word for LOSS — L

Down Clues

☆ What is your name? — KASURI

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation:
Kumar Sivasubramanian
Lettering: Steve Dutro

!!

A LOT OF OUR CLASS-MATES...

LOOK AROUND.

...ARE USING *SIMILAR* WEAPONS TOO.

IT'S NOT SO SUR-PRISING.

"YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE, KYORA-SAN."

"I CAN'T SAY THAT TOO LOUDLY THOUGH."

"YOU'RE THE ONE PERSON WHO UNDERSTANDS THE TRUE VALUE OF MY INVENTIONS..!"

...YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE AND BE SEEN WITH A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE?

OR DID YOU THINK THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY BOY IN CLASS...

DID YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY THAT *FLIRT* HAS SET HER EYES ON—

...

YOU CAN'T READ A ROOM, AND YET YOU'RE GOOD AT READING EXPRES-SIONS.

WHAT'S WRONG, TOSHUSAI-SAN?

SEEMS LIKE YOU USED TO THINK THE SAME THING ABOUT YOURSELF.

TCH

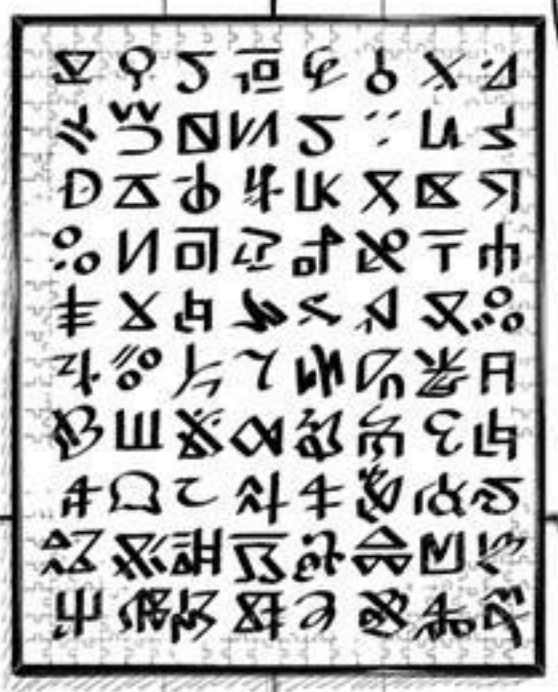
KASURI, OVER...

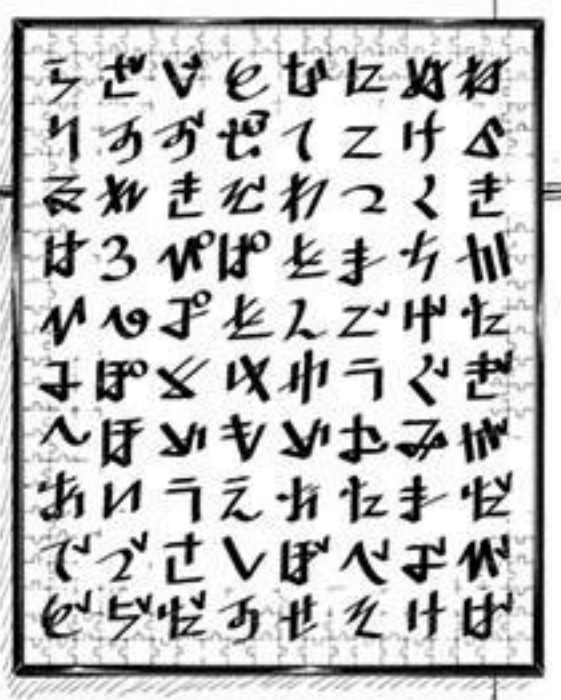
THAT'S RIGHT, IROHAZAKA! OVER!

AFTER ALL, IF YOU RECALL WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE *CASSE-TÊTE QUARTET* TO PICK THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE.

THINK YOU CAN READ THESE CODES AS WELL, OVER?











Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Happy New Year! I hope you continue to follow *Cipher Academy* this year! This chapter's self-introduction crossword comes from Ensa Kasuri. If you understand how these are put together, it's like a psychological exam instead of a puzzle. The puzzle gets more difficult if the questions are fixed, but you understand more about the respondent's personality from their questions. Incidentally, the "over" back-and-forth on this page is a code word on transceivers. It means "done," but also "be quiet" and "I'll shut up" in this case.

!!
LOOKING CLOSER, OTHER PARTS ARE ALSO ARRANGED IN THE ROWS OF THE JAPANESE SYLLABARY TABLE!
COULD IT BE READ AS THE FIVE JAPANESE VOWEL SOUNDS?
WAIT... THIS PART HERE...
HMM...
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS...
...
THIS GIRL IS QUITE THE QUICK THINKER HERSELF.
THEY SEEM TO BE THINKING THE SAME THING.
NOT AS FAST AS ME THOUGH ...
HEY, YOU TWO! LOOK!
ALL RIGHT, KASURI-SAN...

IF YOU ELIMINATE BLOCKS THAT FOLLOW THE ROWS OF A-I-U-E-O, KA-KI-KU-KE-KO, AND SO ON...

...THIS HIDDEN TEXT EMERGES! AND IF YOU READ IT IN ORDER...

DO YOU THINK THAT'S THE RIGHT ANSWER?

N-NO! IT CAN'T BE, BUT... HUH?

...IT SAYS, "JUST FILLED IN THE GAPS." HUH?

I-I'M SORRY, TOSHIISAI-SAN...

IT'S FINE, IROHA-ZAKA-KUN.

OH, I'LL WIPE THAT OFF MYSELF...

?

キュ SKWIK
キュ SKWIK

A GOOD CODE IS OFTEN MISLEADING.

IT'S A TYPICAL DUMMY SOLUTION.

WE COULD CERTAINLY SOLVE IT WITH TWO SHEETS.

BUT WITH THREE IT BECOMES EVEN MORE SOLID.

HUH? THE ADVAN-TAGE?

ISN'T HAVING MORE CODES A DISAD-VANTAGE?

...WE HAVE THE ADVAN-TAGE.

AFTER ALL, THANKS TO THIS THIRD SHEET...

!!

IT EMERGES... OR RATHER...

...THEY OVERLAP... OR MORE RATHER...

...WE CAN DECODE THE TEXT THAT EMERGES FROM OVERLAPPING.

"TO,"
"ZE,"
"KO"?

NO, THAT'S "TSU"!

SHEESH, SHE'S GOOD AT TRACING!

NOT AS FAST AS ME THOUGH ...

YOU'RE RIGHT. THE THIRD SHEET WORKS AS A SYLLABARY TABLE, SO IT'S EASY TO UNDER-STAND.

HERE I WAS THINKING THAT ONLY OUR TEAM GOT A MIX OF THREE PUZZLES...

THIS ISN'T ABOUT A SPARTAN EDUCATION, RIGHT, INSTRUCTOR NIKUEDA?!

IF WE SOLVE THIS PROPERLY, THEN IT'LL ALSO BECOME A HINT...

HM? MEANING ...

"RO."
"N."

"TA."
"O."

"SU."

TOPPLE DISCONTI-NUITY THEORY.

...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, IROHAZAKA-KUN?

TO

ZE

TSU

RO

N

TA

O

SU

I AGREE.

AND YOU, KASURI-SAN?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT LOOKS LIKE THAT, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.

THE DUMMY ANSWER "JUST FILLED IN THE GAPS" WAS A NEATER FIT.

LOOKING AT IT CALMLY, IT'S LIKE, WHAT IS THE DISCONTI-NUITY THEORY ANYWAY?

WHAT, WHY, HOW...? THIS IS LIKE...

SHE'S GIVING US ALL A CHANCE TO SHINE...

IF YOU TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT THEY WERE MIXED-UP JIGSAW PUZZLES IN THE BEGINNING, THEN...

Rozeta sutoon

Tozetsuron taosu

...IT HAS TO BE AN ANAGRAM, RIGHT?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

An anagram is a word game in which the letters of a word or sentence are swapped to form a completely different word or sentence. We say "anagramu" in Japanese, but the word does not inherently conjugate like a Japanese verb just because of the "mu" ending. If you "anagramu" "Iroha of Cipher Academy" in Japanese, you get "mess kit of opened film theory," which is more incomprehensible than "topple discontinuity theory."

THE LINGUIST CHAMPOLLION DID A COMPARATIVE EXAMINATION OF THESE THREE LANGUAGES AND WAS ABLE TO DECIPHER THEM!!

ROSETTA STONE!! DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS!!

THE STONE MONUMENT WITH THREE TYPES OF TEXT ENGRAVINGS— HIEROGLYPHS, DEMOTIC, AND ANCIENT GREEK!

BUT...

...THEY'D CERTAINLY STILL SOLVE IT. WE'RE A TEAM, BUT I'M NO HELP AT ALL.

DESPITE ALL THEY SAID, IF I WASN'T HERE...IF IT WAS THE TWO OF THEM, OR EVEN ONE...

INCREDIBLE...

TOSHIUSAI-SAN AND KASURI-SAN BOTH...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The Rosetta stone is on display at the British Museum in London. Rosetta, by the way, is the name of a place in Egypt. As for the answer to Q. 09, the three mixed-up puzzles presented in the previous issue, that's it. (The first and second, which are not clues, do not even have dummy answers.) However...

HMM...

I FEEL LIKE THAT'S NOT RIGHT EITHER!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IROHA-ZAKA-KUN?

DO YOU MEAN THE "TSU" BEING THE SMALL VERSION DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT TO YOU?

OH NO. I KNOW THAT THAT'S WHAT THAT IS...

I THINK "ROSETTA STONE" IS THE RIGHT ANSWER TOO...

...BUT THAT'S ONLY THE RIGHT ANSWER FOR A MIX OF THREE PUZZLES.

I GUESS, FOR A CASSE-TÊTE QUARTET, THE RIGHT ANSWER WOULD BE MORE DIFFERENT STILL...

...

IF YOU HAVE AN ALTERNATE IDEA, LET'S HEAR IT.

BE MORE CONCISE.

YUGATA-SAN...! NO...

OMOMURO-SAN...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Why are the large "tsu" and small "tsu" regarded the same? I can't say this too loudly, but if you fix any "tsu," "ya," "yu," and "yo" as being the small versions, the creation of the cipher gets harder, but the difficulty of the code gets easier. In terms of difficulty level, they have value for the solver, but they lessen the confidence of the person making the puzzle.

!!

OBORO-SAN! UMI-TSUBAME-SAN!

COULD I GET YOUR HELP FOR A MINUTE?

UM... IROHA-ZAKA-KUN? AS YOU CAN SEE...

...WE'RE ABOUT TO WORK ON OUR CODE.

Also. could I borrow a charger?

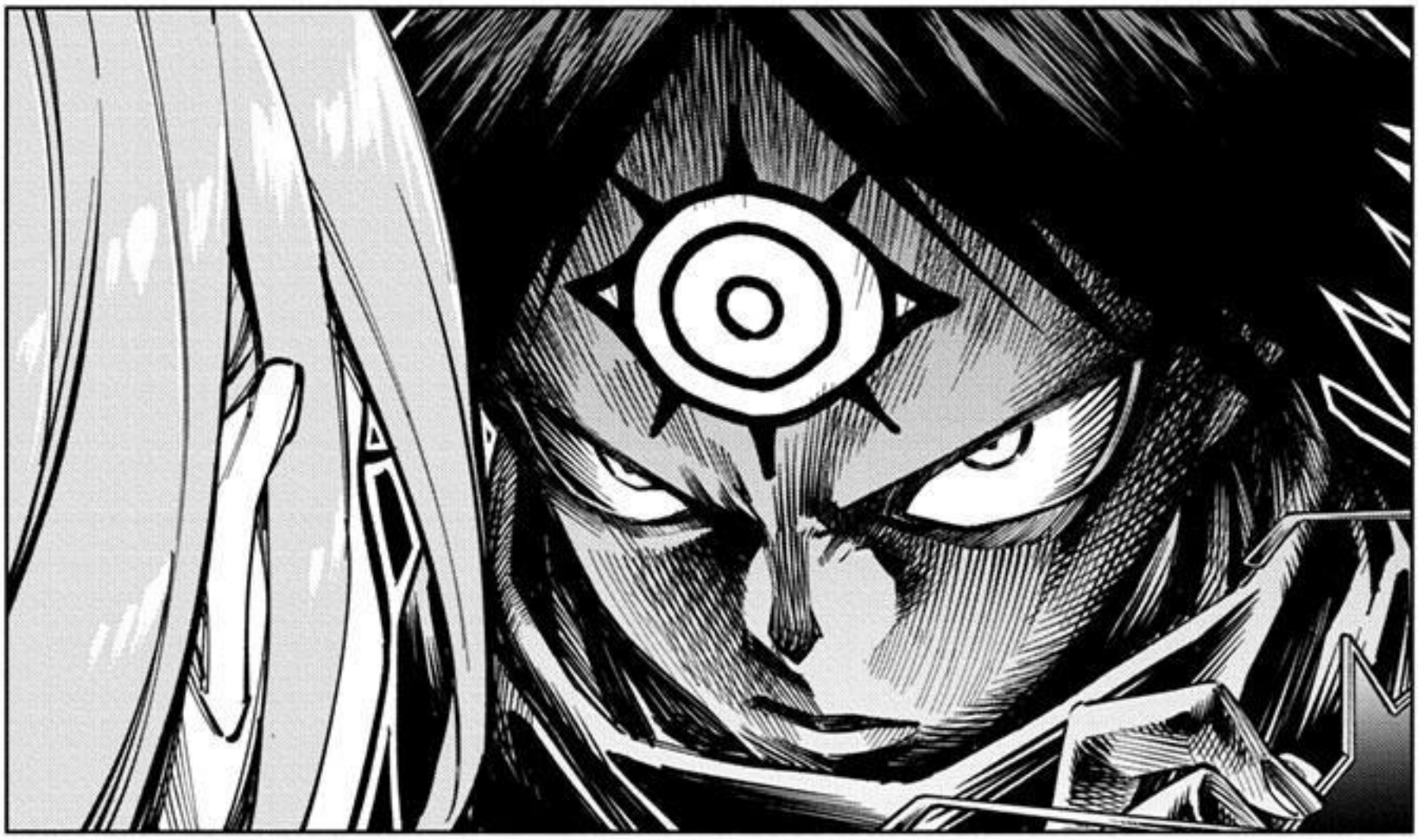
TUNK トン

IF YOU TWO ARE *FRIENDS* OF KOGOE'S AS WELL...

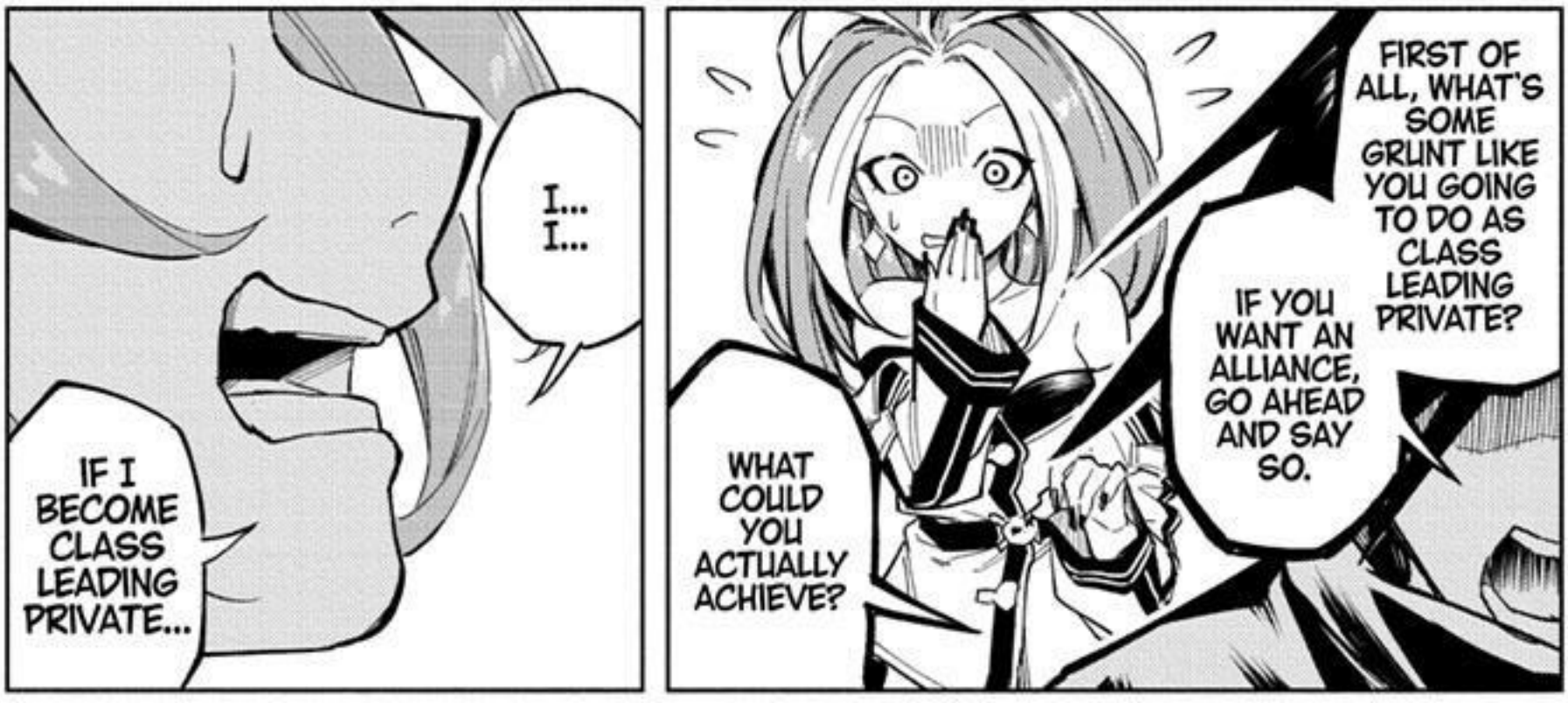
Hup!

OH, YOU CAN SKIP THAT.

I'LL BRING MY DESK OVER THERE.




DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY.
I'M NOT THE SAME...
...AS YOU.


FIRST OF ALL, WHAT'S SOME GRUNT LIKE YOU GOING TO DO AS CLASS LEADING PRIVATE?
IF YOU WANT AN ALLIANCE, GO AHEAD AND SAY SO.
WHAT COULD YOU ACTUALLY ACHIEVE?
I... I...
IF I BECOME CLASS LEADING PRIVATE...

...I WILL END...

...ALL WARS IN THE WORLD.

THEY'RE GONNA LAUGH AT ME NOW.
I SAID SOMETHING I CAN NEVER DO.
I SAID IT.
"I WISH I COULD TELL YOU EVERYTHING, BUT LET'S START WITH WHAT I CAN DO."
IT'S ALL RIGHT ...
...IROHA-ZAKA-KUN.
...AT CIPHER ACADEMY NO ONE LAUGHS AT OTHER PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC DREAMS.
WHETHER THEY'RE FOR OR AGAINST YOU...

UH... AH! YES! WELL, UM... LOOK...

THE CODE NAME FOR THIS TEST IS "CASSE-TÊTE QUARTET."

SPIT IT OUT, IROHA-ZAKA.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US?

AH... THE TEACHER EXPLAINED THAT WITH A DEMONSTRA-TION.

IF YOU ACTUALLY STACK CODES ON TOP OF EACH OTHER, THAT MAKES THINGS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

RIGHT. IN WHICH CASE, IF WE LAYER...

...ANOTHER TEAM'S TWO PUZZLES ON LIKE THIS...

WE STACKED OUR PUZZLES, BUT OUR THREE SHEETS MAKE THREE LAYERS.

AND A NORMAL TWO-PERSON CELL WOULD HAVE TWO SHEETS AND TWO LAYERS, RIGHT?

THAT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT TO ME.

NOW WE'VE GOT...

!!

...A TRUE QUARTET!!

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

In other words, the cipher text for the Oboro-Umitsubame pair is different from Team Irohazaka's for "ze," "tsu," "ro," and "n." (The students can probably work on and derive answers the same way up until the "Rosetta Stone" part by simply stacking the pair's sheets.) Furthermore, that means in all pairs of puzzles, the positions of "ta," "to," "o," and "su" are fixed.

THAT'S STILL NOT IT?!

COULD IT BE "TOR-TOISE"?

AN ANAGRAM OF "TAO-TASU"...

"TA"... "TO"... "O"... "SU"...

FOUR LETTERS LEFT...!

THAT EXAMPLE QUES-TION.

TOSHU-SAI-SAN.

THIS KID, ISN'T ONLY FAST AT MAKING DECISIONS, HE'S ALSO...

NO. THERE'S BEEN NO CHAIN OF REASONING LEADING TO "TORTOISE."

HE WOULD AGREE THAT THE PATTERNING ON ONE'S SHELL LOOKS LIKE A PUZZLE THOUGH...

WHUP=!!!

WHAT?

CAN YOU SEE THE GOAL?

IT WAS TO CHANGE "QUESTION" TO "ANSWER," WASN'T IT?

BUT WITH THAT EXAMPLE QUESTION, THAT WAS THE GOAL.

THE QUESTION OF *WHERE TO STOP* SOLVING A CODE IS A DEEP ONE.

IN FACT, THE GOAL IS FURTHER AWAY!

NO!

Question

THE AMBI-GRAM.

WHY WERE WE MADE...

...TO READ IT BACK-WARD?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Tortoises are land Testudines, and turtles are water Testudines. Rearranging "ta," "to," "o," and "su" in another anagram, you could get "toosuta," but for "toaster" you want the prolonged vowel mark at the end. Unlike with the small "tsu," the use of the vowel lengthening mark ("-") is really a major point, so... On to the ice-cold-reading bonus stage!



*START!!



Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Although Iroha did not mention it, the fact that the instructor said "Fight" (commence war) and not "Start" (begin) is also a hint, if you take it as such. Unlike the emordnilap example question, she couldn't just say the answer itself at the beginning. I would have said it to show off just for fun.

NOW AT LEAST THE WHOLE CLASS HAS NOTICED.

NO, IT WAS QUITE BRILLIANT.

キーンコーン

BINNG BONNG

IN THE END IT WASN'T A COMPETITION, BUT MORE OF A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION... IT'S LIKE WE'RE TAKING BABY STEPS.

WHAT THE? I'M SUDDENLY EXHAUSTED.

...MAY EVEN BE EQUAL TO HIS EYESIGHT!

?

IROHA IROHAZAKA'S NOSE FOR THE RIGHT ANSWER...

!!

"...SO COME HERE!"

I'VE GOT A MESSAGE FROM KOGOE.

I wasn't really planning to give it to you.

SHE SAID, "I'M GOING TO LET YOU STOP A REAL WAR..."

UMI-TSUBAME-SAN...

IROHA-ZAKA-KUN.

YO!

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

"...SO COME HERE!" ☆

"I'M GOING TO LET YOU STOP A REAL WAR...

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Kumar Sivasubramanian
Lettering: Steve Dutro

...CONNECT THE DOTS! ☆

SHE SAYS IT'S TIME TO...

A...

A REAL WAR...?

Q.10

Difficulty Level: ★★☆☆☆

HM...

CONNECT THE DOTS...

Chapter 8: THE DANCERS ARE WARS, THE WATCHERS ARE WARS

アーン
NOM
ガブー
MUNCH
ガブ
MUNCH
I WAS MOTIVATED THANKS TO THOSE TWO SPEED QUEENS.
HEH HEH...
EVEN THOUGH MY NAME MEANS "FROZEN," I'M BURNING WITH JEALOUSY.
ガブ
CHOMP
SHALL WE CHECK YOUR ANSWER? HOW'D YOU KNOW TO COME HERE?
CHOMP
もご
HELLO THERE, IROHA.
AND YOU FIGURED IT OUT, SOONER THAN I THOUGHT.
WE MEET AGAIN, SOONER THAN I THOUGHT.

THE SMALL, MEDIUM, AND LARGE DOTS COULD BE SPHERES SEEN FROM AN OVERHEAD PERSPECTIVE ...

...AND I THOUGHT MAYBE THEY WOULD LOOK THIS WAY WHEN VIEWED FROM THE SIDE.

NUMF はむ

I COUNTED THE NUMBER OF DOTS, AND THERE WERE NINE...

...WHICH REMINDED ME OF THE PLANETS, THE CELESTIAL SPHERES ...

...OR RATHER, SOMETHING LIKE SPHERES.

THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT WE'D BE MEETING IN CLASSROOM 3-D THIS TIME...

3-D

...III-IV.

SO IF YOU CONNECT THESE POINTS TOGETHER LIKE A CONSTELLATION, IT TURNS INTO...

Q.11

Difficulty Level: ★★☆☆☆

A MATH PUZZLE THAT REQUIRES A HIGH DEGREE OF ACCURACY.

ADD IN THAT SKEWER YOU'RE EATING TOO, AND USE FOUR STICKS...

KLAT カラン

...TO MAKE FIVE *SQUARES*.

CRUNCH ぃの

BRILLIANT. AND SINCE WE HAVE SOME EXTRA TIME...

...HOW ABOUT USING THIS CHANCE TO DO ANOTHER CODE?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Iroha arrived at his answer by working backward. Since we last met in an empty classroom, he assumed that would be the case this time, so he identified the location of dots in his blind spots. Conversely, even if Sunka, to whom I entrusted the cipher, were to take a peek, it would be difficult for her to guess the situation with the blind spots, so the difficulty level of connecting the dots would increase.

MAYBE... LIKE THIS?

HMM? WAIT, NEVER MIND FIVE...

...IT DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE ONE SQUARE.

Using this chance...

A high degree of accuracy...

TAP

コン

NO. MATHEMATICALLY, IT DOES LOOK LIKE FIVE.

BY MAKING FOUR 90-DEGREE ANGLES LIKE THIS...

...AS RIGHT ANGLE SYMBOLS, IT MAKES FIVE SQUARES, RIGHT?

THE FOUR SMALL ONES, AND THE LARGE ONE OF THE RIGHT ANGLE SYMBOLS COMBINED...

BRAVO! I CAN'T SAY THAT TOO LOUDLY THOUGH.

...FEEL LIKE THE MOST ELEMENTARY THING NOW?

DOESN'T A TWO-STAR CODE...

HEH HEH... ASIDE FROM THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE SELECTION TEST...

...I'M STRUGGLING IN REGULAR LESSONS, SO SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

HOWEVER!

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

As you have probably guessed, the answer to Q. 11 can be reached by making a square with four sticks. There is the one square in itself, and four more made by the right angle symbols of the corners. But apparently Iroha thought, "Even though there are zero individual squares, they form five," which also fits perfectly. Of course, another way to think about it is that it's more beautiful for one square to be made. Rather than saying both are correct, when there are multiple correct answers, what you choose highlights your own sensibilities.

A SECRET LANGUAGE USED IN A WAR IN WHICH MANY LIVES ARE AT STAKE.

TOK

IT'S LITERALLY AND SERIOUSLY *ACTUAL COMBAT.*

WHAT I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE ON NOW ISN'T FOR A TEST OR CLASS.

...EVEN THOUGH YOU HAD SETTLED ON OBORO-SAN AS A SUCESSOR ...

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED. IN FACT, I'M GRATE-FUL.

I TURNED YOU DOWN BEFORE, BUT IF YOU'RE ASKING ME AGAIN...

SHIK

ALL RIGHT THEN, IROHA, LET'S GET TO IT.

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THIS VIDEO.

HUH? A VIDEO?

ポチ KLIK

WELL, I GUESS I WASN'T THE FIRST TO BE ASKED...

HEE HEE HEE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED EXACTLY, BUT I SEE YOU'RE FULL OF SPIRIT NOW.

ACTUALLY, I ASKED OBORO AND THE OTHERS FIRST, BUT I WON"T MENTION THAT.

THOUGH I DO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, THANKS TO OBORO'S COLORED GLASSES.

THIS IS A DANCE VIDEO THAT'S GOING VIRAL RIGHT NOW.

IT'S MAKING QUITE A BUZZ EVEN IN JAPAN.

BAP

BOP

DSH

WHOA! THEY'RE MOVING SO FAST!

ARE THEY MAKING IT SEEM LIKE THEY ARE DANCING IN A BATTLE ZONE?

SO THE DESIGN IS VERY ME.

?!

OH, I BUILT THAT MYSELF, INCLUDING THE COMMUNI-CATIONS SATELLITE.

THE ELECTRONICS RESTRICTIONS IN CLASS M ARE STRICT IN A DIFFERENT WAY.

IS CLASS M DIFFERENT, KOGOE? I'M JEALOUS.

SO, SMART-PHONES ARE LIKE THIS NOW, HUH?

ELEC-TRONIC DEVICES ARE OFF-LIMITS AT CIPHER ACADEMY, SO IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN ONE.

YOU COULD SHOW THIS VIDEO TO A CHILD.

NOTHING REALLY. IT'S COMPLETELY WHOLESOME. NO VIOLENCE. NO UNDERLYING IDEOLOGY.

SO...

WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THIS DANCE VIDEO?

WELL, I GUESS SHE WAS ABLE TO MAKE THOSE HIGH-TECH GLASSES, SO SHE COULD MAKE A SMART-PHONE TOO...

THAT IS, IF YOU SET ASIDE THE FACT THAT IT'S *PROTECTED*...

...BY SECURITY AS TIGHT AS A MILITARY FACILITY IN A MAJOR COUNTRY.

!!

*THE LOST WORLD
ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

THE ONLY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE I'VE READ IS "THE LOST WORLD."

HAVE YOU READ THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY "THE DANCING MEN"?

*SHERLOCK HOLMES
THE DANCING MEN
ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

YOU'RE AN INCREDIBLE READER.

I BET DOYLE WOULD BE PLEASED THOUGH.

IT'S LIKE SEMA-PHORE, USING BODY PARTS AS SIGNALS...

IF WE LOOK AT IT THAT WAY, ON THE WALL BEHIND THEM, WE SEE THE VOYNICH MANUSCRIPT.

...TO EMBED MESSAGES IN MOVEMENTS IS A STANDARD METHOD.

AND INSTEAD OF WEARING A DANCE OUTFIT, THEY'RE DRESSED LIKE THEY'RE SPECIAL FORCES...

WHAT WE SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF IS HOW IT COVERS UP THEIR AGE, GENDER, NATIONALITY, ET CETERA.

...

SO, YOU'RE SAYING THIS IS SOME KIND OF MILITARY CODE EXPRESSED IN THE FORM OF A DANCE?

PERHAPS, BUT THERE'S NO PROOF. IT MAY BE A MATTER FOR THOSE WELL VERSED IN THE INTERNET.

IT IS A FACT THAT THIS DANCER'S POSTING DATE IS LINKED TO A *CERTAIN* COUNTRY'S CIVIL WAR.

BUT THAT TOO MAY BE MERE COINCI-DENCE.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The Voynich manuscript is an ancient code-like book that has still not been deciphered today. It was included on the blackboard on the cover of the *Jump* issue when we started serialization. The remark "I bet Doyle would be pleased though" is based on the view that that great mystery writer did not like to be recognized as a mystery writer. Well, the way I see it, he must have had a great *tsundere* attitude.

I CAN'T SAY THAT TOO LOUDLY THOUGH.

...THEN A GREAT NATION MUST BE INVOLVED.

AND IF IT IS, THEN THIS MILITARY OPERATION GOES BEYOND THE SCALE OF ONE NATION'S CIVIL WAR.

IF WE LOOK AT IT THROUGH THE THE EYES OF AN ENGINEER...

...IF IT'S PROTECTED AS IF IT WAS A GREAT NATION...

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SCARED AND ARE RUNNING AWAY?

!

HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

...Jeffery Deaver?

So you've read...

I'M GOING TO DO KINESICS ANALYSIS LIKE KATHRYN DANCE!

NO. I'M GOING TO GO CHANGE MY TOP.

I FIGURE I'D DO THE DANCE MYSELF FIRST...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Kathryn Dance is a California detective who is known as "the Human Lie Detector." She's able to see through a suspect's lies and sense anything off from their mannerisms. She's a famed detective who rivals author Jeffery Deaver's Lincoln Rhyme. It hardly needs saying, but "Dance" is her name, and according to my investigations, she doesn't actually dance. Speaking of Deaver, I'd also like to recommend *The Blue Nowhere*, which is a stand-alone work.

ARE YOU SURE, YOUNG MISS...

...ABOUT NOT LOOKING FOR IROHA-ZAKA...?

BY NOW, HE COULD BE...

BY NOW HE MUST BE MEETING WITH KOGOE.

AND LIKELY SHE'S HAVING HIM TAKE PART IN ACTUAL COMBAT.

EVEN AT CIPHER ACADEMY, THAT SORT OF CURRICULUM IS FORBIDDEN UNTIL YOU'RE A THIRD-YEAR...

I WOULD RESENT BEING THOUGHT OF AS A POOR LOSER TOO.

WITH A RECORD LIKE THAT, IT'S HARD TO INTERFERE.

I LOST, AND YOU TIED.

IN THAT CASE...

NO. I DON'T THINK THAT WAS A DRAW.

AND IN YOUR CASE HE VIOLATED RULES REGARDING WAR WEAPONS.

THANK YOU. IT WOULD BE NICE IF LOSS BY DISQUALIFICATION HAPPENED IN REAL WARS TOO.

BUT THIS TIME LET'S WAIT AND SEE.

THE FACT IS, IROHAZAKA-KUN HAS HIS BUTT IN GEAR AND IS STEADILY IMPROVING.

BUT DEPENDING ON WHAT THAT PSEUDO PROFESSOR IN THE BACKGROUND DOES...

...I MAY END UP PUTTING YOU TO WORK...

...TAYU-TAN.

...

COSSACK.

HULA.

WAI KHRU.

SAMBA.

K-POP.

BELLY DANCE.

PARA PARA.

CAPO-EIRA.

BEIJING OPERA.

NOH.

BALLET.

MAMBO.

...IF I LIKE THAT KIND OF MOVIE.

HEH HEH... I WONDER IF IT WAS IMPRUDENT TO ATTEND THIS SCHOOL...

NOT AT ALL.

IF SOME-ONE GETS ANGRY AT YOU, IT'LL BE FOR DIFFERENT REASONS!

DO YOU KNOW "NAATU NAATU"?

BWA HA HA HA HA!

...

YOU TALK ABOUT STOPPING WARS, KOGOE...

WHY DON'T YOU TALK ABOUT *ENDING* WARS?

IROH

NOT BEING ABLE TO ENJOY MOVIES ANYMORE...

...IS REASON ENOUGH TO WANT TO STOP WARS TO BEGIN WITH.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Regarding "Naatu Naatu," please see the movie *RRR*. Cipher Academy is a boarding school, so you're not allowed out without permission. That means Iroha saw it before he started school. Seriously though, forbidding enjoyment is one of the negatives of war. You wouldn't be able to read manga either. Can't say that too loudly though.

SLRP

HMM...

WHICH MEANS STOPPING WAR IS BETTER THAN ENDING WAR, RIGHT?

NO NEED FOR SACRIFICES, AND IT DOESN'T COME WITH ANY DESTRUC-TION.

BECAUSE ENDING A WAR MEANS ONE SIDE WINS.

WINNING MAY SOUND GOOD, BUT BASICALLY IT'S MASSACRE.

IT'S INCREDIBLE THAT IT INTERWEAVES DANCES FROM ALL OVER INTO A SINGLE FLOWING SERIES, BUT EVEN SO, IT MAKES TOO FEW LETTERS.

BUT CLASSIFY-ING THE MOVES IN FINER DETAIL WOULD BE AN ENDLESS TASK.

IS IT BECAUSE THE DANCER'S ROOTS AREN'T SPECIFIED, OR DO THEY JUST WANT TO SHOW OFF?

THAT'S TRUE.

...BUT 13 IS A LITTLE LOW, ISN'T IT?

ANYWAY, WAS THAT YOUR ENTIRE ANALYSIS OF THE VIDEO?

IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO CLASSIFY IT ACCORDING TO TYPE RATHER THAN MOVEMENT...

I LOVE THAT YOU DESPISE UNFAIRNESS, IROHA...

...BUT PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE AT STAKE, SO...

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GIVING YOU GUIDANCE FOR DANCING...

...BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO HESITATE. YOU KNOW YOU CAN USE THE GLASSES, RIGHT?

I gave you the charger, didn't I?

ROMAN ALPHABET LETTERS ...

...PERHAPS ?

BUT IN ROMAN LETTERS, THE KANA SYLLABARY WOULD BE FIVE VOWELS AND NINE CONSONANTS, MAKING 14.

AND ACTUALLY, "WA" AND "WO" CAN BE REPLACED WITH "HA" AND "O," MAKING IT 13.

Wa Ra Ya Ma Ha Na Ta Sa ka a
Ha Ri Mi Hi Ni Ti Si ki i
Ru Hu Nu Tu Su ku u
Ne Te Se ke e
Wo No To So ko o

THE ALPHABET HAS 26 LETTERS. THE KANA SYLLABARY HAS 50 CHARACTERS.

THERE ARE ALMOST AN ENDLESS AMOUNT OF KANJI.

HE'S...

NO...

THAT WAS HONESTLY JUST COINCI-DENCE, BUT...

KOGOE, DID YOU KNOW THE ANSWER ALREADY ?

THE CODE THAT REVEALED OUR MEETING PLACE WAS IN *ROMAN NUMERALS.*

IS THIS ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR TYPICAL OFFHAND HINTS?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

In addition, the Japanese "n" is covered by the "na" column in the syllabary because it's the English consonant "n," so it doesn't need to be included in the total. Also, Japanese voiced consonants and half-voiced consonants ("p" sounds) are ignored in this instance. We're looking for a pattern with the lowest number of letters. Therefore...

AHH...

IF I COULD FIGURE OUT THE DECODING KEY...

...AND IF I COULD ALSO LEAVE IT UP TO A PRO STRATEGIC ANALYST...

HEH HEH... WELL, LET'S GO WITH THAT THEN.

CAN I STOP DECODING THERE?

THEY SAY PEOPLE CAN CHANGE DRAMATICALLY EVEN IN THREE DAYS, BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH!

BUT I TIP MY HAT TO YOU FOR ADVANCING FASTER THAN I IMAGINED.

THAT'S PROBABLY NOT THE ONLY REASON ROMAN LETTERS WERE USED.

Is the inclusion of two Japanese dances also a hidden hint?

"Para Para" and "Noh"...

RIGHT. BUT PROS WOULD BE SURPRISED TOO.

A MINOR WRITING SYSTEM USED ONLY BY A FAR EAST ISLAND NATION, CONVERTED INTO CODE...

...AND THEN FREELY RELEASED TO THE WORLD...

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REALLY GET IT YET...

...BUT EVEN IF IT'S NOT A WHOLE WAR...

...IF I CAN STOP A SINGLE VIOLENT MILITARY OPERATION ...

...BUT IF YOU STOP LEVELING UP, THAT'S A PROBLEM FOR ME.

I GET THAT THERE'S A PERIOD WHEN IT'S FUN TO SOLVE THINGS YOURSELF...

IT'S FRUSTRATING THAT HE WON'T USE THE GLASSES WEAPON LIKE I WANT HIM TO.

...THEN I'LL BE HAPPY.

HEH HEH.

...FOR TODAY... ♡

THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH...

WOW. CHEER-LEADING, HUH.

NO WONDER YOU CAN DANCE SO WELL.

I'LL KEEP IT A SECRET THAT I CHOSE THIS CODE BECAUSE I WANTED TO WATCH YOU DANCE, IROHA.

STILL, EVEN WITHOUT THE CODE OR WHATEVER, THIS DANCER IS INCREDIBLE.

I WAS A CHEERLEADER IN JUNIOR HIGH, BUT...

...TO BE HONEST, THE MOST I COULD DO WAS COPY MOVEMENTS.





Q.12

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★



To be continued!

THIS PERSON IS ASKING THE WORLD FOR HELP!

THIS ISN'T REVEALING A MILITARY STRATEGY.

IT'S AN SOS!

Chapter 9:

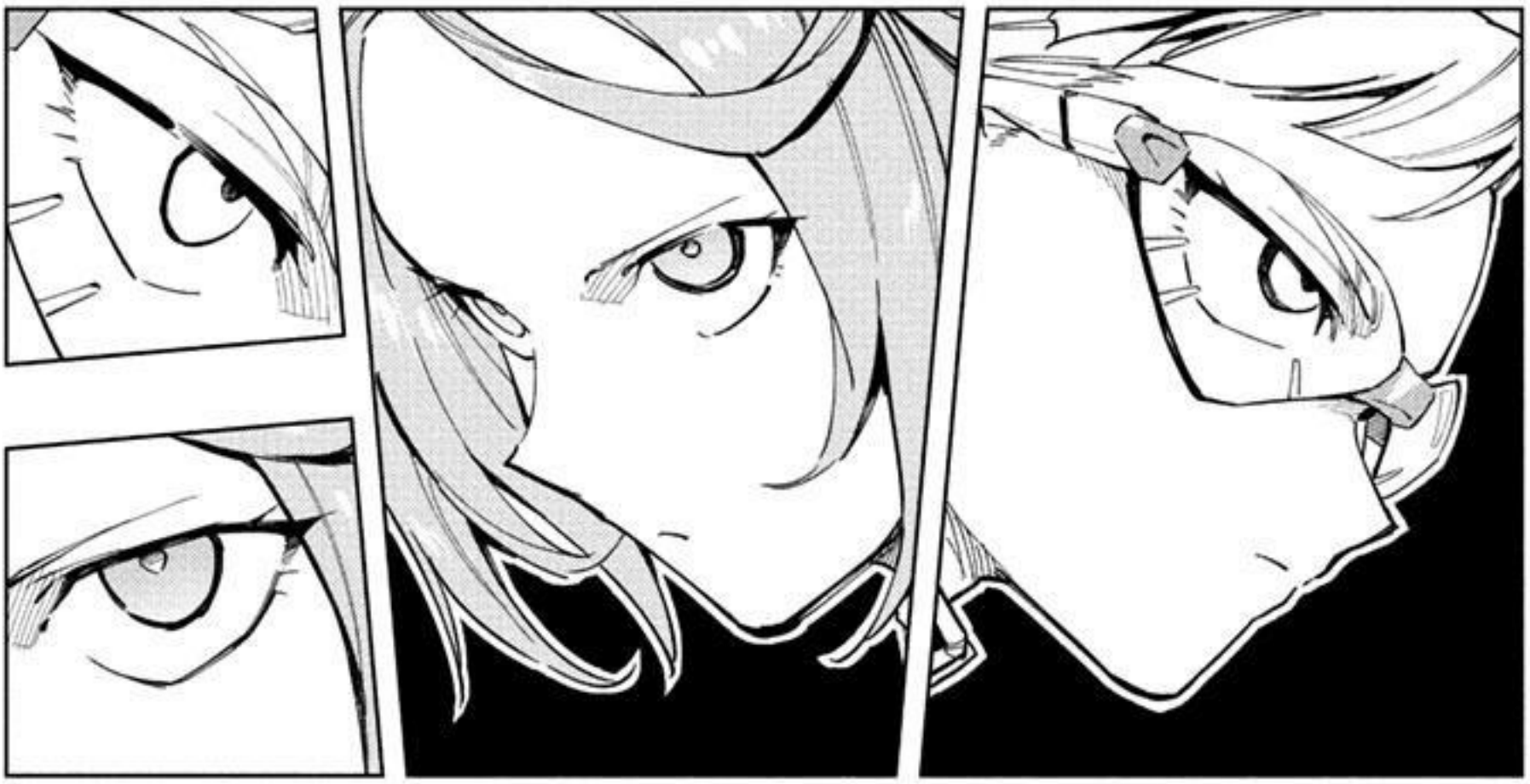
A DISTANT WAR IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Kumar Sivasubramanian
Lettering: Steve Dutro

...IROHA?

...WHY DO YOU THINK THAT...

NO PARTICULAR REASON.




I AGREE WITH YOU, BUT I THOUGHT MAYBE THERE WAS MORE...
NO, NO, NO! THAT WAS ME!
WAIT. THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE A SURPRISE TWIST.
SORRY ABOUT THE DRAMATIC PAUSE THERE...


"NO PARTICULAR REASON" CAN BE TAKEN AS "EASILY."
THAT SAID, WE CAN'T REALLY ACT BASED JUST ON THAT...
IT'S THE KIND OF INTUITION I'VE COME TO EXPECT FROM YOU.




...
YEAH.
...OF RELYING ON THOSE GLASSES BECAUSE YOU CONSIDER IT UNFAIR.
WHAT'S GOING ON? I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE THE IDEA...


!
IROHA!


EVEN THOUGH I'LL HELP YOU WITH YOUR STRATEGIC DREAM OF STOPPING WARS...
...AND SOLVE CODES WITH A SMILE ON MY FACE...


I'VE TREATED EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED AS AN EXTENSION OF CLASSES AND TESTS.
BUT, KOGOE, THE THING IS...

...I DON'T THINK...

...I SHOULD BE LOOKING TO HAVE FUN HELPING PEOPLE.

WMF

WELL THEN, LET'S DO THIS!

FIRST TIME IN A LITTLE BIT!

...

ICE

READING!!

COLD

AS I SUSPECTED... HM...

NGH!

URK...

ドゴッ

ドゴッ

ドゴッ

ドゴッ

ドゴッ

ドゴッ

ドゴッ

ドゴッ

TO BE HONEST, THE MOST I COULD DO WAS COPY THE TIPS OF THEIR HANDS.

THE KEY IS IN THE MOTION OF THE HANDS AND FINGERS!!

THE DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY IS IRRELEVANT.

...THAT IS DIFFERENT TO THE MILITARY STRATEGY!

IN OTHER WORDS, THIS VIDEO IS SENDING A MESSAGE VIA HAND SIGNS...

...BUT THIS IS CLEARLY DIFFERENT.

IT'S SIMILAR TO THE SO-CALLED HAND SIGNS I LEARNED IN CLASS...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

It seems that because the hand mannerisms of the signature pose of the Naatu dance are different, Iroha sensed that something was off. One never knows what's going to become a hint. "Copy the tips of their hands" is not just a hint for solving the puzzle, but the phrase itself could draw something out unconsciously.

I THINK THERE MIGHT BE SOME KIND OF RULE... FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON!

VMF

FOR NOW, MAYBE I SHOULD CATEGORIZE THE HANDS INTO LEFT AND RIGHT.

...

THE LEFT HAND HAS ONE TO FOUR... IT'S NEVER ALL FIVE.

LEFT HAND

RIGHT HAND

THE RIGHT HAND HAS ONE OR TWO FINGERS STICKING OUT...

BEEP

BEEP

THERE'S THE PALM AND THE BACK OF THE HAND! IF YOU THINK OF THEM AS SEPARATE, THEN YOU GET DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF PATTERNS EVEN WITH THE SAME NUMBER OF FINGERS!

OH! THAT'S NOT RIGHT!

BUT AREN'T TWO AND FOUR FAR TOO FEW?

EVEN ADDED TOGETHER THAT ONLY MAKES SIX...

IF THE DANCER IS SEEKING THE SMALLEST NUMBER OF LETTERS, JUST LIKE THE DANCE, THEN SIMPLE NUMERICAL VALUES ARE KEY...

IS THERE A MEANING FOR EACH FINGER STICKING OUT? NO...

YOU CAN'T MAKE ROMAN LETTERS WITH THAT MANY...

LEFT HAND

FRONT

BACK

FRONT

BACK

BUT EVEN DOUBLING THEM TO FOUR AND EIGHT ONLY MAKES 12...

BEEP

12?

MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU GOT SOME REST—

HEY, IROHA.

...32.

WHAT IF I DON'T ADD THEM BUT MULTIPLY THEM INSTEAD? IN THAT CASE, FOUR TIMES EIGHT IS...

THE GREAT-EST *DISCOV-ERY*...

...IN *MATHE-MATICAL* HISTORY IS...

...THE RIGHT HAND HAS THREE TIMES TWO FOR SIX, AND THE LEFT HAS FIVE TIMES TWO FOR TEN...

IF YOU COUNT FROM ZERO...

...ZERO!

...THE GOOD OLD KANA SYLLABARY!

SMAK

AND SO YOU CAN MAKE...

...IS PRE-ORDAINED BY FATE!

WAP WAP WAP

NOW IT'S GOING THROUGH ALL THE COMBINA-TIONS! AS KASURI-SAN SAYS, EVEN A MEETING BY CHANCE...

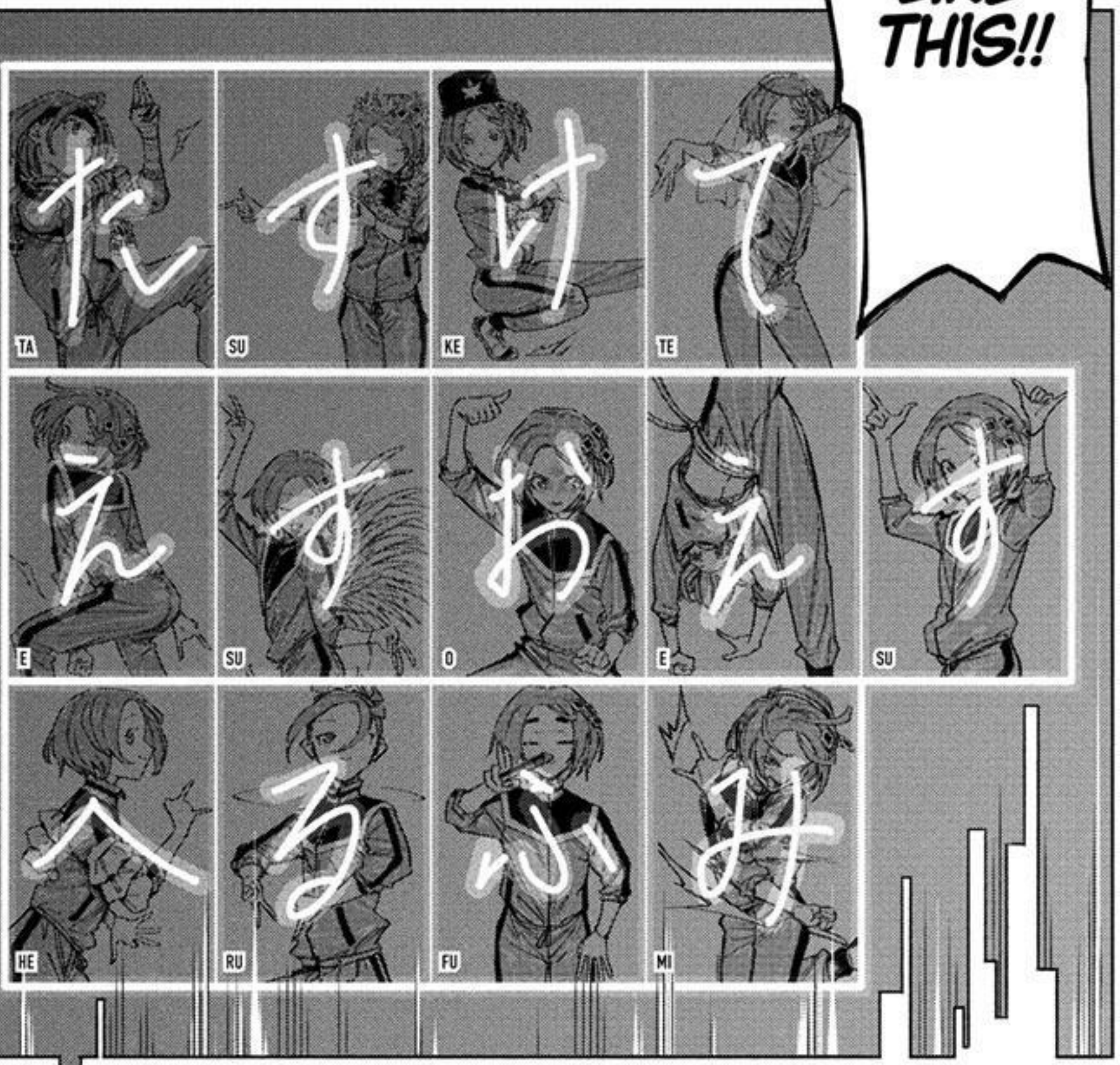
WAP WAP WAP

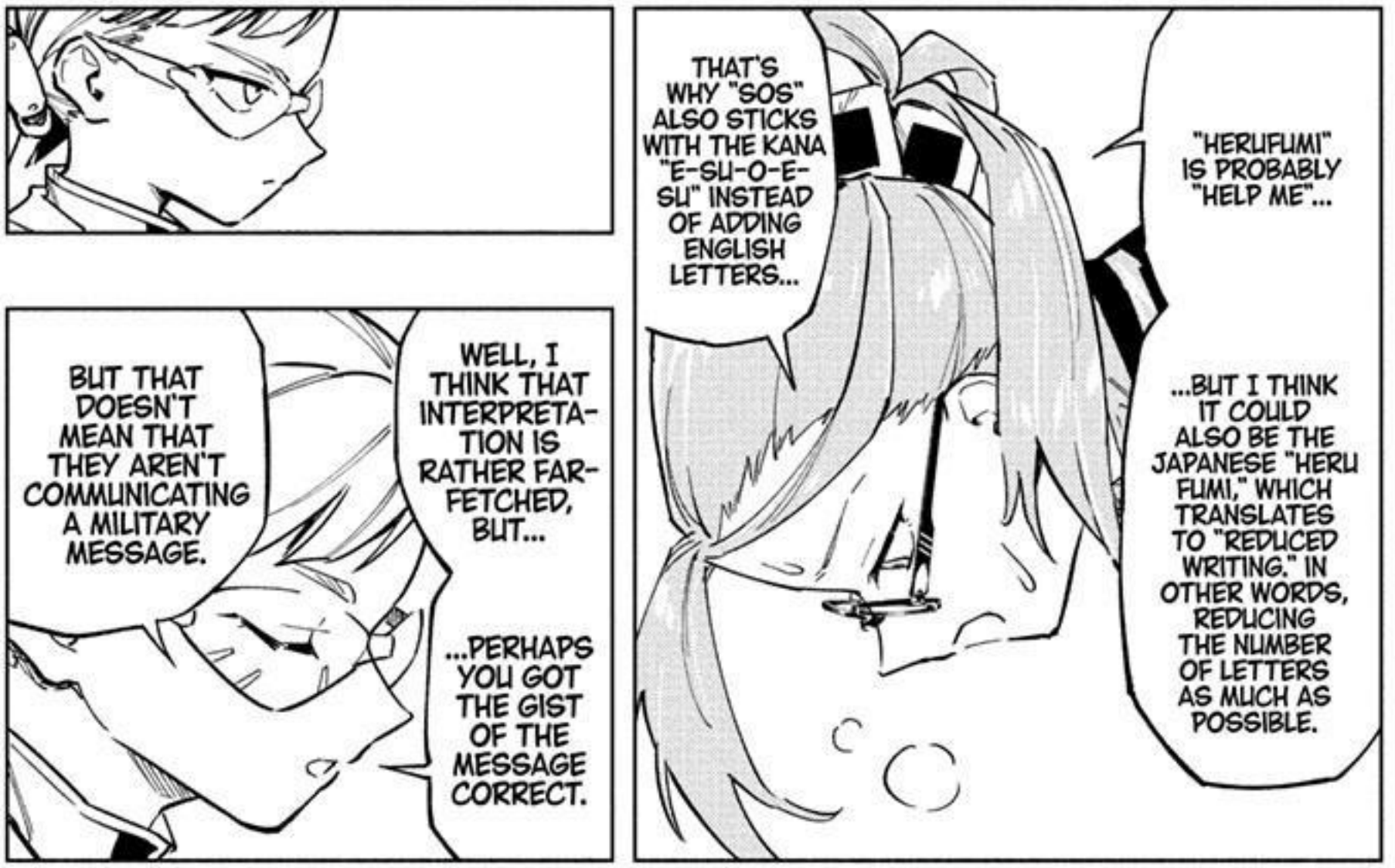
LEFT FINGERS
左指
右指
RIGHT FINGERS

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
あ	い	う	え	お	か	き	く	け	こ
さ	し	す	せ	そ	た	ち	つ	て	と
な	に	ぬ	ね	の	は	ひ	ふ	へ	ほ
ま	み	む	め	も	や		ゆ		よ
ら	り	る	れ	ろ	わ				を
ん									

WA	RA	YA	MA	HA	NA	TA	SA	KA	A
	RI		MI	HI	NI	CHI	SHI	KI	I
	RU	YU	MU	FU	NU	TSU	SU	KU	U
	RE		ME	HE	NE	TE	SE	KE	E
O	RO	YO	MO	HO	NO	TO	SO	KO	O

LIKE THIS!!







Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Reducing the number of moves means that not only are they less likely to be detected, but it's also easier to remember. Memorizing all the finger signals would be quite a challenge, right? On the other hand, including zeros in the cipher has the disadvantage of eliminating flat states and bridges between messages. In that case, you basically have to dance forever without a break. That's a definite no for me.

THIS MESSAGE WASN'T A MILITARY STRATEGY THAT REQUIRED ANALYSIS FROM A PRO.

EVEN THOUGH I NEEDED TO CHEAT, A NOVICE LIKE ME WAS ABLE TO DECIPHER THIS SIMPLE CALL FOR HELP.

IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S NO ONE ELSE WHO'S TACKLED IT... SO HOW COME THIS KID STILL HASN'T GOTTEN ANY HELP?

IS JAPANESE REALLY THAT OBSCURE?

I'M CONVINCED WE'RE FROM THE SAME GENERATION...

...BUT WITHOUT ANY PROOF, THAT'S JUST MY OPINION.

STILL, CAN I ASK SOMETHING?

...

PERHAPS BECAUSE IN ORDER TO FIGURE OUT THE MILITARY OPERATION...

...IT'S MORE HELPFUL TO KEEP THEM DANCING RATHER THAN TO HELP THEM.

IN THAT CASE, ALLOW THIS NOVICE TO CHEAT AND COMPLETELY DECIPHER IT!

I'LL DETERMINE THE DANCER'S PRESENT LOCATION AND EVEN THEIR NAME!

ゲーン

WMF

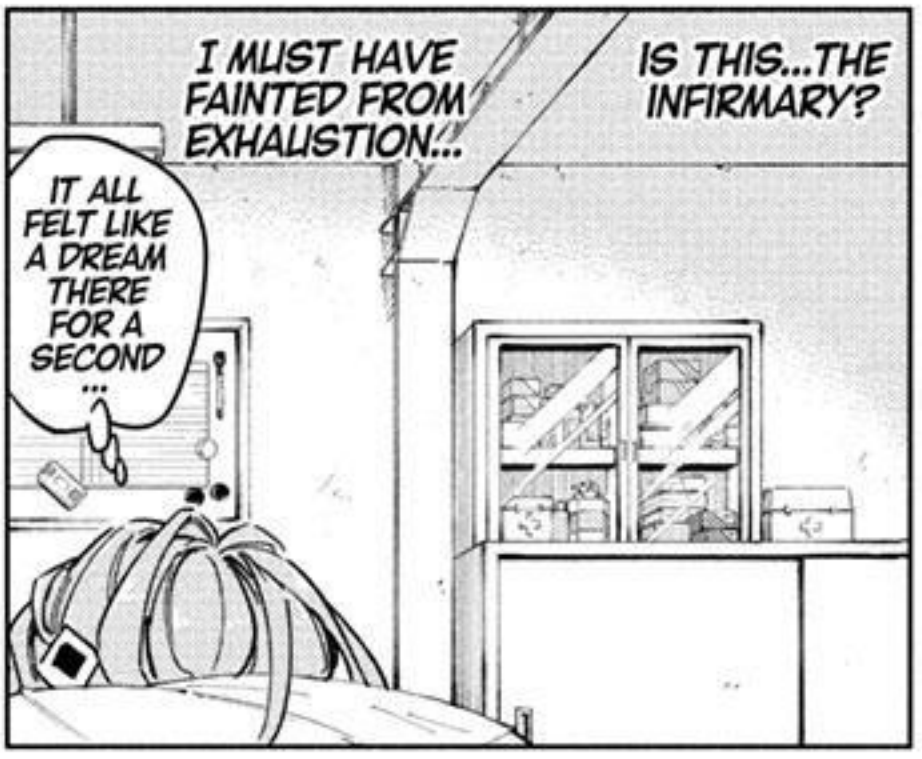
ICE

HEH HEH...

CAN'T ...

...SAY THAT TOO LOUDLY THOUGH.


HUH?!


I MUST HAVE FAINTED FROM EXHAUSTION...
IS THIS...THE INFIRMARY?
IT ALL FELT LIKE A DREAM THERE FOR A SECOND ...


...


THERE MUST BE RISKS TO WEARING THOSE HIGH-TECH GLASSES... WHAT HAPPENED TO KOGOE?
I GUESS I DRAINED MY OWN BATTERY THIS TIME...

SO YOU'RE AWAKE.

Q.13

Difficulty Level: ★★☆☆☆

A WAKE-UP CODE. CAN YOU READ WHOSE NAME THIS IS?

THAT'S RIGHT. AND HERE YOU GO.



YU...

YUGATA-SAN?!

I CAME TO VISIT, AND THE MILITARY PHYSICIAN ASKED ME TO LOOK AFTER YOU.

I WASN'T THE ONE WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE.

WELL, EXCUSE ME FOR THIS.

IT'S THE ENGLISH LETTERS IROHA IROHAHAZAKA BURIED IN THE JAPANESE IROHA IROHAZAKA, RIGHT? WAIT.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

YUGATA-SAN, WERE YOU WATCH-ING OVER ME?

MAKING ME SOLVE A CODE JUST AFTER WAKING UP...

GRRP

YOUR EYE CONGES-TION HAS CLEARED.

DO YOU HAVE A HEAD-ACHE? NAUSEA?

PLOP ポフン

N-NO, I FEEL FINE.

THANK YOU, YUGATA-SAN.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

I'M GLAD THOUGH.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Generally, the answer to a cipher can't be the same as the question, but Q. 13 challenges that. I was the one who brought Iroha into the infirmary, of course, but more details on that next week.

SO YOU'RE READY NOW. BE AWARE THAT IF YOU TAKE ME ON IN A CODE BATTLE...

...YOU'LL SUFFER A DEFEAT SO DEVASTATING THAT HEADACHES, NAUSEA, AND FATIGUE WILL RESULT EVERY TIME YOU SEE TEXT.

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

!

HI...

...KYORA-SAN.

Chapter 10: YESTERDAY'S WAR IS WAR TODAY TOO

Q.14

Difficulty Level: ★★☆☆☆

スッ SHF

...KOGOE?

1・1・9・9 PAKITTE

YOU SUMMONING ME WITH A CODE? IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE...

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation:
Kumar Sivasubramanian
Lettering: Steve Dutro

AS FOR "PAKITTE"...

THERE ARE FOUR NUMERALS IN "1-1-9-9." *OUR MEETING TIME* COULD ONLY BE 19:19.

ANYWAY, HOW'D YOU SOLVE IT?

HEE HEE HEE! SO OBORO SUCCESS-FULLY DELIVERED IT TO YOU, HUH?

MY CODED LOVE LETTER.

You, and I might be the only ones who know the official name of this divine item.

I HAVE NO ULTERIOR MOTIVE, KYORA-SAN.

I WANTED TO SEE YOU AS A FRIEND.

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO ABOUT HANGERS-ON OR POLITICS.

YOU MUST HAVE REALLY DONE WELL FOR YOURSELF TO MAKE YOUR EX-BOSS RUN SMALL ERRANDS, FORMER TECHNICAL ADVISOR.

THUT トン

1・1・9

PAKITTE

THAT'S SIMPLY THE NAME OF *THIS PACKAGING*, ISN'T IT?

SINCE YOU'RE EATING YOUR FAVORITE FOOD IN THE CAFETERIA, YOUR MESSAGE WAS TO BRING YOU SOME CONDIMENTS, HUH?

...

SAY, KYORA-SAN...

PAH パキ

HOW MANY CODE SOLDIERS DO YOU NEED TO *FREEZE IN ICE* BEFORE YOU'RE SATISFIED?

SO YOU WANTED TO MEET ME? AFTER SENDING IROHAZAKA-KUN TO THE INFIRMARY?

YOU REALLY DON'T LEARN, DO YOU?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Until just a little while ago, "Pakitte" were known as "DispenPaks." They're a type of all-purpose packaging that can also be used for salad dressings, not just ketchup and mustard. Strictly speaking, only Kyora-san and I and the Kewpie company employees know its official name. Incidentally the "yu" kana in "Kyuupii" is actually a large "yu."

WHY DON'T WE HAVE A TEMPORARY CEASE-FIRE?

I CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, BUT...

...I NEED YOUR HELP.

IROHA IS KEEN TO SAVE A CODE SOLDIER IN AN UNKNOWN PLACE WHO'S BEING FORCED TO DANCE.

I DON'T MIND IF YOU LAUGH 'CAUSE THIS ISN'T VERY LIKE ME.

BUT TO BE HONEST, THAT EARNESTNESS TOUCHED MY HEART.

AND I WANT TO HELP HIM ACHIEVE HIS GOAL REGARDLESS OF PROFIT OR LOSS.

YOU SEE...

OF COURSE, I WOULDN'T ASK YOU FOR FREE.

YOUR *PARENT COMPANY* IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING DRONE WEAPONS, RIGHT?

YOUR EARS ARE SHARP AS ALWAYS... WHAT OF IT?

AFTER ALL, EVEN I... NO, WE...

...WERE LIKE THAT ONCE TOO, RIGHT?

...

I CAN SELL YOU JUST THE RIGHT WARS AT BARGAIN PRICES.

THEN YOU CAN THROW AS MANY PROTOTYPE WEAPONS INTO THEM AS YOU LIKE.

I AM TRULY...

...DIS-APPOINTED, KOGOE.

I REALLY DID THINK I WAS COMING TO SEE A FRIEND.

AND I'M SICK AND TIRED OF TAILING A WAR-MONGER'S BUTT ALL THE TIME.

BUT THIS IS VERY LIKE YOU, SO I CAN REST EASY.

YOU'VE HANDED OUT YOUR OLD AND NEW GLASSES WEAPONS ALL OVER MY CLASS NOW.

And we were never like that.

VERY WELL. IF IROHAZAKA-KUN IS ABLE TO REPEL *THE NEXT ASSASSIN*...

...THEN I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOUR RIDICULOUS CEASE-FIRE PROPOSAL.

LET ME WARN YOU. I THINK IT'S TOO SOON FOR YOU.

TO TELL THE TRUTH ...

...IT'S A BIT HUMILI-ATING HAVING TO GO AGAINST AN AMATEUR LIKE YOU.

WELL...

I WONDER. I AGREE WITH YOU, YUGATA-SAN.

Nohime-san?

BUT THEN THERE'S TOSHUSAI-SAMA, HORAGATOGE, NOHIME-SAN, AND SO ON...

THERE'S A LARGE GROUP THAT GIVES YOU TOO MUCH CREDIT.

YOU'RE AIMING TO MAKE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE, AREN'T YOU?

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S SO YOU CAN GET INTO CLASS M...

...OR IF IT'S SO YOU CAN STOP WARS OR WHAT-EVER, BUT...

WHAP

OF COURSE, IT'S FINE IF YOU REFUSE. THAT MAKES THINGS EASY FOR ME TOO.

BUT IN THIS CASE, EVEN IF YOU'VE GOT YOUR EYES SET ON FUTURE DEVELOP-MENTS...

...THIS IS A BATTLE YOU CAN PROFIT FROM.

IN THE END, IT'LL BE A MAJORITY-VOTE SYSTEM.

...YOU'D BE BEST SERVED BY SECURING MY VOTE.

WHATEVER ANYONE MIGHT SAY, IT'S ABOUT PICKING THE TOP PERSON.

Urk...

...

AND IF I LOSE?

WHEN THAT TIME COMES, YOU UNDERSTAND...

...THAT GAINING SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE LIKE ME IS IMPORTANT, DON'T YOU?

PEOPLE WITH INFLUENCE WHO AREN'T AIMING FOR THE TOP AND HAVE NO *ASPIRA-TIONS.*

HM?

HUH? DON'T PLAY DUMB.

UP UNTIL NOW, YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE ME YOUR MANSERVANT OR HAVE ME TRANSFER TO A BOYS' SCHOOL.

AH. THAT'S TRUE.

BUT NO PENALTIES THIS TIME.

LOOK, I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE...

AFTER YOU'RE BEATEN BY ME, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN YOUR SANITY...

...AND THEN YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH MY *KIND AND GENTLE* PUNISHMENT.

"YOU'LL SUFFER A DEFEAT SO DEVASTATING THAT HEADACHES, NAUSEA, AND FATIGUE WILL RESULT EVERY TIME YOU SEE TEXT."

ALL RIGHT, THEN. SHALL WE START OUR CODE BATTLE?

SHUFっそ

IROHA IROHAZAKA VERSUS TAYU YUGATA.

Q.15

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★

AND OUR SUBJECT IS...

...VERBAL SLIP CUT BY HALF QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION.

...CUT BY HALF...

VERBAL SLIP...

...QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION.

DON'T BE SO SUSPICIOUS. THIS WILL BE A FAIR COMPETITION.

COMPETITION? SO THERE'S NO CODE SOLVING?

SWP

SO THERE AREN'T 53, BUT 46... ONE FOR EACH SYLLABLE BETWEEN "A" AND "N"...

PLAYING CARDS? NO. KANA SYLLABARY CARDS?

SHUK SHUK

OH, I SEE. SORRY ABOUT THAT.

IN A CODE-SOLVING BATTLE, YOU'D PROBABLY FIND SOMETHING NONSENSICAL TO COMPLAIN ABOUT AND BRING IT TO A DRAW.

...ARE BEING SHUFFLED AND THEN CUT IN HALF?

THE 46 CARDS...

DO YOU KNOW...

...WHAT A LIPOGRAM IS?

...SO IT'S BETTER TO HAVE A CHALLENGE THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH EYESIGHT.

PLUS, YOU SEEM TO HAVE OVERUSED YOUR EYES...

FWIP

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The 50 kana sounds are sometimes counted as 51, or 46, or 47, or 48. It's complicated. Plus "wo" is sometimes seen as an old pre-1946 character form, which is confusing. Well, please accept that in this case the 50 we use in day-to-day life are considered to be 46.

IT'S A WORD GAME IN WHICH YOU CONSTRUCT A COMPOSITION WITHOUT USING SPECIFIED LETTERS.

A LONG TIME AGO, GEORGES PEREC WROTE AN ENTIRE NOVEL WITHOUT USING THE LETTER E.

IN JAPAN, YASUTAKA TSUTSUI'S *ZANZO NI KUCHIBENI O* IS ANOTHER FAMOUS EXAMPLE.

IT'S LIKE THE BATTLE IN *YUIYUI HAKUSHO* ...

...BETWEEN MINAMINO AND KAITO.

THAT'S RIGHT. I CAN ONLY PRAY THAT THIS WILL BE LIKE THAT FAMOUS BATTLE.

BUT IT WON'T BE OUR SOULS AT STAKE, JUST OUR PRIDE.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Iroha devotedly says Minamino, but of course it's Kurama. Thinking back on territory powers now, that was the start of the psychic power trend, wasn't it? The Japanese title of Perec's novel is *Enmetsu* (Smoke Dissipation). It's a brilliant translation in which the "I" row (i, ki, shi, chi, ni, hi, mi, ri) is not used. The original text omits the letter "E," the most frequently occurring letter in the language it was originally written in.

THE RULES ARE SIMPLE. THE 46 SYLLABLES ARE SPLIT INTO TWO, AND WE EACH GET HALF.

IF YOU MAKE A *VERBAL SLIP*, YOU LOSE.

HALF OF 46...SO...

THAT'S 23 SYL-LABLES.

NO. IT CAN'T BE DONE.

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SAY ANYTHING. IT'LL JUST BE SILENCE.

GIVE IT A SHOT. I HEAR YOU, BUT I THINK YOU'LL BE SURPRISED.

I'LL GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE.

CHOOSE 23 AT RANDOM, AND...

I KNOW. ASK ME FOR SUMMARIES OF SOME BOOKS YOU LIKE.

OKAY ...

WELL...

*Although we have roughly translated each answer, these lipograms don't work in English due to the phonetic differences from Japanese.

A, I, O, KA, KU, KO, SHI, SU, TSU, TO, NI, NU, NO, HA, HE, MA, MU, ME, YA, YO, RI, RO, N.

DO DRAGON BALL.

SUKUI NO GOKUI NO KAMEHAMEHA, GOHAN WA JII KA MUSUKO KA OOGUI KA?

(KAMEHAMEHA, THE SECRET ART AND SALVATION. IS GOHAN AN OLD MAN OR A SON OR A BIG EATER?

U, E, KI, KE, SA, SE, SO, TA, CHI, TE, NA, NE, HI, FU, HO, MI, MO, YU, RA, RU, RE, WA, WO.

DO ONE PIECE.

FUNADE DA! UTAGE DA! HONE DAKE DA! SORA WO WARU UMI DE WARAU MI DA!

(A SHIP! A FEAST! JUST BONES! SMILE DEVIL FRUIT IN A SEA THAT DIVIDES THE SKY!)

I, E, O, KI, KO, SHI, SE, TA, CHI, TSU, NA, NE, HA, HI, MA, MI, MO, YA, YO, RI, RE, WA, WO.

DO SLAM DUNK.

HANAMICHI, MICCHI, GORI, MIYAGI, KITSUNE MO IREBA "ORE TACHI HA TSUYOI!"

(WITH HANAMICHI, MITCHI, GORI, MIYAGI, AND FOX TOO, WE ARE STRONG!)

A, U, KA,
KU, KE,
SA, SU,
SO, TE,
TO, NI,
NU, NO,
FU, HE,
HO, MU,
ME, YU,
RA, RU,
RO, N.

DO
KOCHIKAME.

YUME NO KANSUU
MUNI NO BUROUZU!
HONKAN NO BOUKEN,
YUUYUU TO ASOBOU.

(A DREAM NUMBER
OF VOLUMES,
UNPARALLELED
EYEBROWS!
THIS OFFICER'S
ADVENTURES,
LET'S RELAX AND
HAVE FUN!)

A, I, U,
E, KA,
KI, KE,
KO, SA,
TO, NU,
NE, NO,
HI, FU,
MA, MO,
YA, RA,
RI, RO,
WA, N.

DO
DEMON
SLAYER.

IKINOKORI NO
IMOUTO, MAMONO
NO KI TO KASAN.
HITO MODORI NEGAI,
KEI GA KIRIMAU.

(SURVIVING SISTER,
CHANGED INTO
A MONSTROUS
DEMON. WISHING
TO MAKE HER
HUMAN AGAIN, HER
BROTHER DANCES
WITH BLADE.)

O, KU, SHI,
SU, SE,
SO, TA,
CHI, TSU,
TE, NA,
NI, HA,
HE, HO,
MI, MU,
ME, YU,
YO, RU,
RE, WO.

DO
THE
PROMISED
NEVERLAND.

SUKU SUKU
SODATTA JIJI,
ONI NI OKURU
SHISETSU.
DASSHUTSU
SEYO, SUGUNI!

(QUICKLY
GROWING
CHILDREN,
INSTITUTIONS
THAT SEND
THEM TO
DEMONS.
ESCAPE, NOW!)

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Well, well, you may think, those selections of 23 syllables were easy to work with, weren't they? But in each pair of two panels, the 23 sounds Iroha selects are half the set. Yugata does the same on the third panel of this page. In other words, if one half is easy to work with, then the other half is hard. (Voiced consonants, half-voiced consonants ["p" sounds], palatalized sounds, and the geminate consonant [small "tsu"] are handled the same as the original syllables, and the prolonged sound mark ["–"] uses the vowel of the previous syllable.) On the other hand, it's very like Iroha to not deliberately make any of them too difficult.

...WILL ALSO FALL UNDER THE 23-SYLLABLE RESTRICTION.

BUT IN THE COMPETITION, THE QUESTIONS...

BUT AREN'T YOU TOO INTO *JUMP*'S HISTORY?

THANK YOU.

AMAZ-ING!

...WHICH BECOMES...

TEME DONO TOSHI KARA NO TOUSHI NO TSUU YO?

(HEY, YOU, SINCE ABOUT WHAT YEAR HAVE YOU BEEN AN EXPERT OF THIS MAG?)

LIKE THAT.

U, KA, KE, SHI, SU, SE, TSU, CHI, TE, TO, NA, NE, NO, HA, HO, ME, YA, YO, RA, RI, RU, WA, WO...

...WHICH BECOMES...

...ANTA REKIDAI KOETA KOSAN FANAPI?

(YOU'RE SHOWING OFF THAT YOU RE A FAN THROUGH THE AGES?)

A, I, E, O, KI, KU, KO, SA, SO, TA, NI, NU, HI, FU, HE, MA, MI, MO, MU, YU, RE, RO, N...

SO YOU CAN'T KEEP SILENT.

WE HAVE QUESTIONS WE WANT TO ASK EACH OTHER, RIGHT?

...IN WHICH BOTH THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ONLY USE HALF THE KANA SYLLABARY...

A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION...

...

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CLASS M?

WHAT ARE THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AROUND MORG?

WHAT'S CRYPTOCURRENCY? WHAT IS MORG?

THERE ARE...

HOW DO THOSE GLASSES WORK?

WHAT RELATIONSHIP DO YOU GIRLS HAVE WITH KOGOE? WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NOHIME?

...TONS OF THEM!

WHO ELSE HAS THEM?

CAN YOU SOLVE THAT WIRE PUZZLE WITH ONE HAND? WHAT WAS THE MEANING OF THAT PANGRAM?

WHAT'S THE METAVERSE? WHERE DO THEY SELL THOSE HAIR TIES YOU GAVE ME?

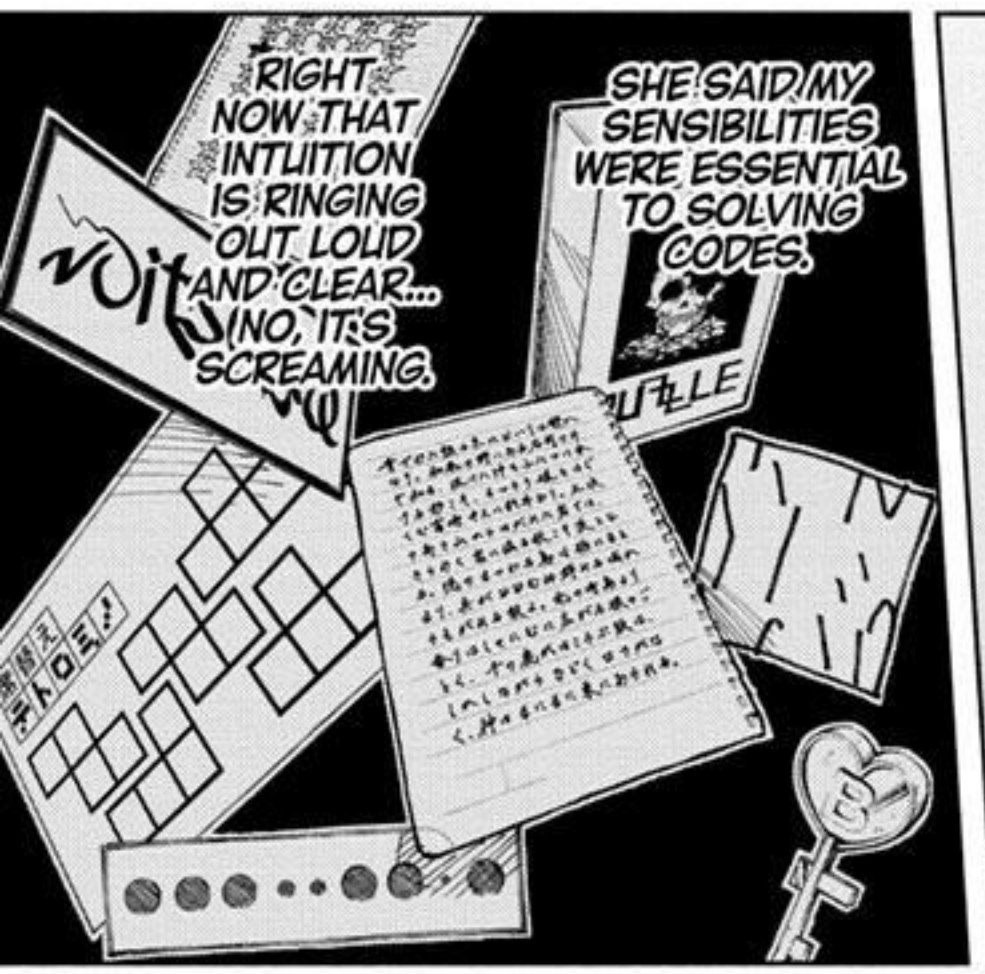
WHY HASN'T OBORO-SAN SAID A WORD TO ME SINCE THE BATTLE

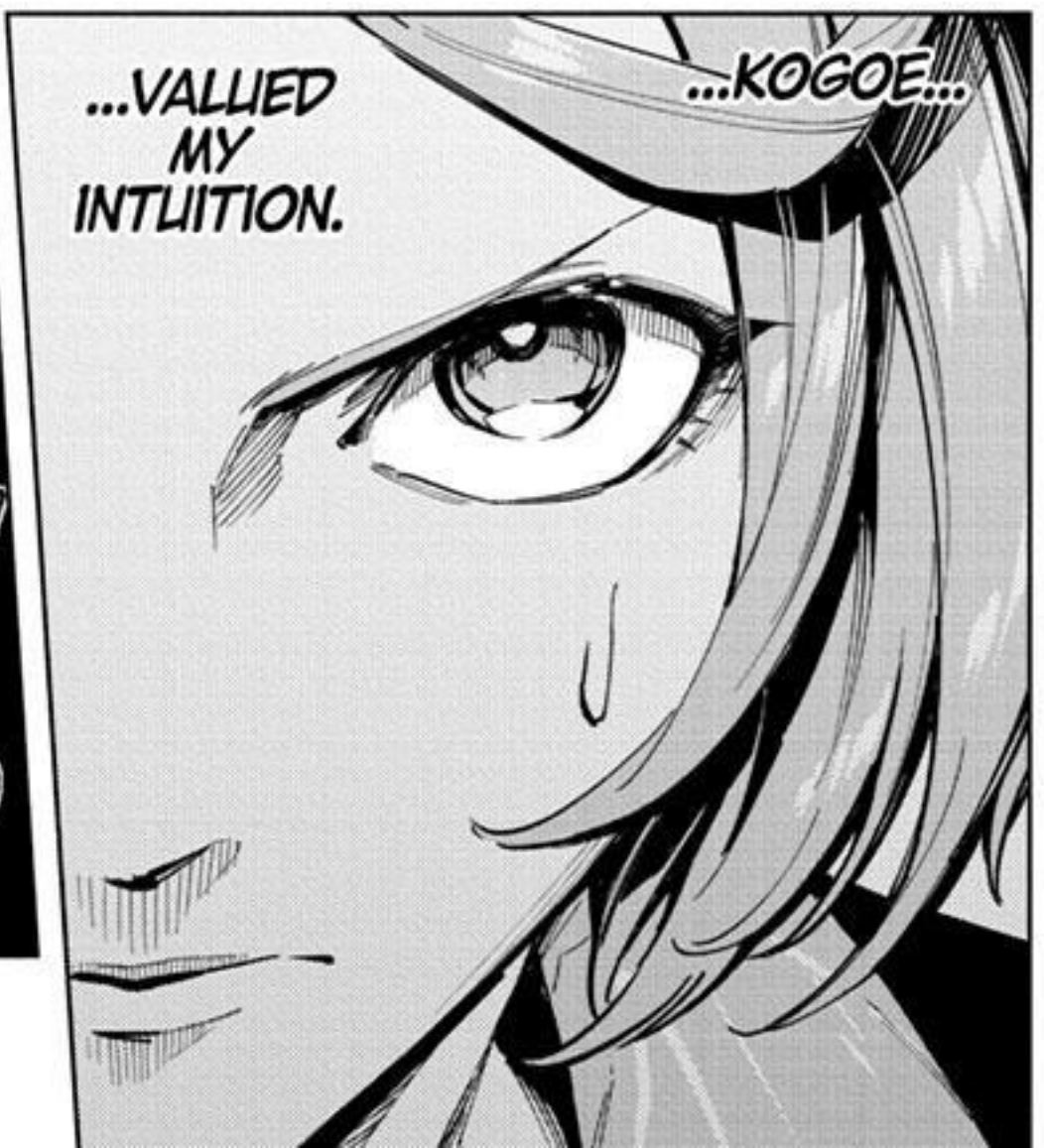
WHY DOES TOSHIUSAI-SAN CALL YOU TAY

WHY DOES TOSHIUSAI









DO NOT TAKE ON THIS GIRL!!

AND IT'S TELLING ME...

...

BUT...

...THERE'S THIS RULES SYSTEM WE'VE NEVER EVEN USED IN CLASS THAT I'M SEEING FOR THE FIRST TIME...

PLUS...

I GET THE FEELING I'LL GET BEATEN SO BAD, I'LL BE TRAUMATIZED!

IT WON'T JUST END WITH MY DEFEAT!

...WITH THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF WORDS...

...IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO THAT KID WHO ASKED FOR HELP...

HOW DISAPPOINTING. I HATE BULLYING THE WEAK...

A MOST REGRETTABLE THING, IROHAZAKA-KUN.

I WILL HAVE A WORD-EXCHANGE BATTLE WITH YOU, YUGATA-SAN.

LIPOGRAMS ARE THE MOST ELEMENTARY THING!

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 11:

YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST A CODE AND A CRYING CHILD

Across Clues

① A(n) PERSON with PRECOGNITION	SOOTHSAYER
② TOY you like for BARBIES	DOLLHOUSE
③ Likes MUSHROOMS	MYCOLOGY
④ Another word for CHILDHOOD FRIEND	TOSHUSAI
⑤ VEHICLE in SPACE	ROCKET
⑥ LINES do this	CONGA
⑦ A(n) WORD of IDENTIFICATION	NAME
⑧ Use this to DRINK	CUP
⑨ The OPPOSITE of OFF	ON
⑩ Another word for MYESLF	I

Down Clue

☆What is your name? YUGATA



Code Battle

Verbal Slip Cut by Half Question-and-Answer Session

Iroha Irohazaka vs. Tayu Yugata

Rules

① Take the 50 kana syllables (in this case 46) and cut them in half. Each player takes half and must use their 23 syllables for a question-and-answer session.

② You lose if you make a verbal slip.

③ You can ask as many questions as you like in a row. However, if you receive a question, you may not ask a question until you've answered.

④ Voiced consonants, half-voiced consonants ("p"), palatalized sounds, and the geminate consonant are treated the same as their original syllables. The prolonged sound mark ("-") is treated as the vowel sound of the previous syllable.

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation: Kumar Sivasubramanian
Lettering: Steve Dutro

わ××まはな××かあ
×　み××××きい
×るゆむ××つ××う
×　め××てせけえ
×××もほの×そ××

WA	X	X	MA	HA	NA	X	X	KA	A
	X		MI	X	X	X	X	KI	I
X	RU	YU	MU	X	X	TSU	X	X	U
	X		ME	X	X	TE	SE	KE	E
X	X	X	MO	HO	NO	X	SO	X	X





X	RA	YA	X	X	X	TA	SA	X	X
	RI		X	HI	NI	CHI	SHI	X	X
WO	X	X	X	HU	NU	X	SU	KU	X
	RE		X	HE	NE	X	X	X	X
N	RO	YO	X	X	X	TO	X	KO	O

I'M ENVIOUS. YOU HAVE GOOD LUCK.

RELAX. IT'S AN ADVANTAGE.

I'VE GOT THE ENTIRE "MA" COLUMN, BUT...IS THAT AN ADVANTAGE OR A DIS-ADVANTAGE?

I-I WONDER HOW THIS IS GONNA GO?

WHAT WAS THE MEANING OF THAT CODE YOU GAVE ME BEFORE?!

虚無の果てに夢を見ろ X
暗号解けたなら言える台詞 X
襲わぬ誉れ X
ひねもす察知 X
隠し部屋 X

WHAT—

A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION... NO MATTER WHAT, THERE IS ONE QUESTION I DEFINITELY NEED TO ASK!

*Witness a dream at the ends of nothingness X
If you've solved the puzzle, there's a line you can say X
Unassailable honor X
Inference, all day long X
A hidden room X

FINE! MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IT A SHOT!

"WHXT XXS THX XXXNXNG XF THXT COXX YOX GAVX XX BXFORX?!"

URK!

W-WHAT THE?

THAT QUESTION'S ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE TO ASK.

ALL RIGHT, THEN, I'LL GO FIRST.

YOU'RE STARTING TO GET IT NOW, HUH?

COUGH UP A CORPO-RATE ASSOCIA-TION...

...YOU ARE FOND OF.

*NOTE: THE CROSSWORD IN CHAPTER 1 WAS LOCALIZED INTO ENGLISH, BUT THE PANEL BELOW AND ON THE NEXT PAGE USE IROHA'S ORIGINAL CROSSWORD IN JAPANESE FOR THE LIPOGRAM.

A SLEEP-ING BOARD.

①好きな組織は？

GOT IT! COULD IT BE FROM MY SELF-INTRO-DUCTION CROSS-WORD...?

A LAZY, INACTIVE COMMITTEE!!

A CORPORATE ASSOCIATION I'M FOND OF... WHAT'S THAT?

"COUGH UP"? SHE'S SAYING THAT INSTEAD OF "TELL ME" OR "ANSWER THIS"...SO THAT'S HOW IT GOES.

RIGHT, SHE CAN'T USE "E"...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

This code explanation is more like a code-battle explanation. Basically, Yugata has replaced "organization" with "corporate association." In terms of rules, she could have just changed it to "association," but deliberately going with "corporate association" is more playful and imaginative as a lipogram. Meanwhile, it would seem that Iroha doesn't have that kind of creativity yet...

A SPACESHIP YOU ADMIRE?
AN IDIOM YOU IDENTIFY WITH?
PRAISE YOU WANT TO BE TOLD?
A TIME YOU WANT?
A VEHICLE THAT CALMS YOU DOWN?
A COLOR YOU REMEMBER?
AN EDGED TOOL YOU RECOMMEND?
A PRECIOUS EMOTION?
AN IMPORTANT GRAMMATICAL PREFIX?

尊い宇宙船は?
共感する慣用句は?
言われたい褒め言葉は?
欲しい時間は?
落ち着く乗り物は?
思い出の色は?
推薦する刃物は?
大切な感情は?
重要な接頭語は?

*NOTE: THE THOUGHT AND SPEECH BALLOONS IN THE FOLLOWING PANELS HAVE THE SAME MEANING, BUT THE DIALOGUE IN THE SPEECH BALLOONS FOLLOW THE RULES OF THE LIPOGRAM BATTLE.

多段式ロケット
蟹の穴入り
とてもあざやか
猶予期間
エアライン
鈍色
諸刃
愛無

MULTISTAGE ROCKET.
LIKE A CRAB GOING IN A HOLE.
MAGNIFICENT.
GRACE PERIOD.
AIRPLANE.
DARK GRAY.
DOUBLE-EDGED.
LOVE.
NON.

SWF

PLEASE DON'T GET SERIOUS YET!
NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!

IN THAT CASE, IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS.
WOW. SO HE'S CAPABLE OF KEEPING UP SO FAR.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

I swear each card was chosen randomly, but looking only at the distribution, there's no doubt that Iroha has the advantage. Besides the "ma" column, he also holds "a," "i," "u," "e," "ka," "ki," and "ke"—more than half the "a" and "ka" columns, which is huge. On the other hand, Yugata has "n," which is maybe a good thing? It's also interesting to hide either the left or right speech balloons and read it that way. You can solve it, or you can try and make some yourself.

HOW TALL ARE YOU?
HOW MUCH DO YOU WEIGH?
WHAT MONTH AND DAY WERE YOU BORN?
WHAT IS YOUR FATHER'S OCCUPATION?
WHAT DO YOU CALL YOUR MOTHER?
DO YOU HAVE ANY SIBLINGS?
WHO WAS YOUR FIRST CRUSH?
WHAT WAS YOUR CHILDHOOD NICKNAME?
WHAT'S A FAMOUS MOVIE THAT MOVED YOU?
IF YOU COULD TAKE A TRIP, WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?
WHAT'S YOUR BLOOD TYPE? (INCLUDE RH FACTOR.)
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN BADLY INJURED OR HAD A SERIOUS ILLNESS?
WHAT'S YOUR TYPE?
HOW'S YOUR VISION? (FOR BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT.)
DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF GOD?
DO YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS YOU WOULD CALL CLOSE?
WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DID YOU DO IN JUNIOR HIGH?
HOW MUCH DO YOU CURRENTLY HAVE IN SAVINGS?
WHAT JOB DO YOU WANT IN THE FUTURE?
HOW FAST CAN YOU RUN 100 METERS?
DO YOU HAVE ANY USEFUL QUALIFICATIONS?
DO YOU HAVE ANY ALLERGIES OR FOOD THAT DISAGREES WITH YOU?
WHAT'S YOUR BEST SCHOOL SUBJECT?
WHAT'S YOUR WORST SCHOOL SUBJECT?
WHAT WAS YOUR COMBINED RANKING IN MIDTERM EXAMS?
AT WHAT AGE DID YOUR VOICE CHANGE?
DO YOU HAVE CAVITIES?
HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED HEARTBREAK?
HAVE YOU EVER CONFESSED YOUR FEELINGS TO SOMEONE?
HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED A LOVE LETTER?
WHAT CODE DO YOU LIKE THE MOST RIGHT NOW?
WHAT IS YOUR MOST ATTRACTIVE FEATURE?
WHAT IS YOUR WEAK POINT?
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN PRESENT AT SOMEONE'S DEATH?
WHAT KIND OF CLOTHING SUITS KYORA TOSHUSAI?
WHAT KIND OF HAIRSTYLE WOULD YOU GIVE YUKAKO OMOMURO?
WHAT DO YOU CONJECTURE ABOUT SOBORO OBORO'S PAST?
DID YOU REALLY CHOOSE KASURI ENSA AS A TEAMMATE BASED ON MERIT?
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IESUNO NOHIME?
HOW FAR DO YOU TRUST KOGOE HORAGATOGE?
WHO WOULD YOU MARRY IN CLASS 1-A?
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS YOUR OWN CUTENESS RANK IN THE CLASS?
WHO DO YOU HONESTLY THINK IS MOST SUITED TO BEING CLASS LEADING PRIVATE?
DID YOU EVER EXPERIENCE CHILD ABUSE?
WHY DID YOU COME TO CIPHER ACADEMY?
WHY ARE YOU PREJUDICED AGAINST VIOLENCE AND THE DIFFERENCE IN NUMBERS OF GROUP MEMBERS?

身長は何cmですか?
体重は何kgですか?
誕生日は何月何日ですか?
お父さんの職業は何ですか?
お母さんのことをどう呼んでいますか?
きょうだいはいますか?
初恋の相手は誰ですか?
子供の頃のニックネームは?
感動した名作映画と言えば?
旅行をするならどんなところに行きたいですか?
血液型は何型ですか?　RHまで教えてください
大きな怪我や大病をしたことはありますか?
好みのタイプはどういうかたですか?
視力は?　左右ともに教えてください
神の存在を信じますか?
親友と呼べる友達はいますか?
中学時代の部活は何でしたか?
現在の貯金額は?
将来どんな職業に就きたいですか?
100メートルを何秒で走れますか?
役に立つ資格は持っていますか?
苦手な食材やアレルギーはありますか?
得意科目は何ですか?
苦手科目はなんですか?
中間試験の総合順位はいかがでしたか?
声変わりは何歳の頃でしたか?
虫歯はありますか?
失恋の経験はありますか?
愛の告白をしたことはありますか?
ラブレターをもらったことはありますか?
今のところもっとも好きな暗号は何ですか?
あなたのチャームポイントは何ですか?
あなたの弱点は何ですか?
人の死に立ち会ったことは何度ありますか?
東洲斎享楽にはどんな服が似合うと思いますか?
徐綿菓子のヘアスタイルをアレンジするなら?
朧そぼろの過去をどう推測しますか?
絆縁沙を本当に能力主義でチームメイトに選びました?
濃姫家雪をどう見ます?
洞ケ峠凍をどれくらい信じていますか?
1ーAで結婚するなら誰ですか?
自分をクラスで何番目に可愛いと思っていますか?
ぶっちゃけ学級兵長には誰がもっとも向いていると思いますか?
幼少期に虐待された経験はありますか?
なぜ暗号学園に来たのですか?
なぜ暴力や人数差を毛嫌いするのですか?

身長は161㎝です
体重は48㎏です
誕生日は11月21日です
父の職業は風刺漫画家です
母をママと呼んでいます
兄弟姉妹がひとりずついます
サークルの先輩が好きでした
「いろりん」でした
「トイストーリー」です
沖縄です
B型RHマイナスです
骨折を頻繁にしていました
枢斬暗屯子様です
左右2.0ですがたぶんもっといいです
神様は信じません
いましたがいなくなりました
チア部でした
3000円くらいです
考えたこともありません
11秒フラットです
爆発物取扱免許を持っています
ありません
強いて言えば体育と音楽です
体育と音楽以外の全部です
よくはありませんでした
まだです
一本もありません
あります
あります
あります
パングラムに親しみを持てます
足です
集合体恐怖症です
九回です
パリッとした正装が似合うと思います
今の徐さんが一番です
元囚人だと推測します
その理由は後付けでした
？　特にどうも…？
まだ半信半疑です
肉枝教官です
3番目です
東洲斎さんです
あります
父に強要されました
渦中にいたからです

I'M 161 CM TALL.
I WEIGH 48 KG.
MY BIRTHDAY IS NOVEMBER 21.
MY FATHER IS A CARICATURE ARTIST.
I CALL MY MOTHER "MAMA."
I HAVE ONE BROTHER AND ONE SISTER.
I LIKED MY SENPAI IN A CLUB.
IT WAS "IRORIN."
TOY STORY.
OKINAWA.
IT'S B NEGATIVE.
I OFTEN BROKE BONES.
SUZAN ANTONKO.
LEFT AND RIGHT ARE 2.0 BUT MIGHT BE BETTER.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD.
I DID, BUT THEY PASSED AWAY.
THE CHEERLEADING SQUAD.
ABOUT 3,000 YEN.
I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
ELEVEN SECONDS FLAT.
I HAVE AN EXPLOSIVES HANDLING LICENSE.
I DO NOT.
IF I WAS FORCED TO SAY, P.E. AND MUSIC.
EVERYTHING OTHER THAN P.E. AND MUSIC.
IT WASN'T GOOD.
IT HASN'T YET.
NOT ONE.
I HAVE.
I HAVE.
I HAVE.
I LOVE PANGRAMS.
MY LEGS.
TRYPOPHOBIA.
NINE TIMES.
I THINK SOMETHING STYLISH AND FORMAL WOULD SUIT HER.
SHE'S BEST AS SHE IS RIGHT NOW.
I THINK SHE WAS A FORMER PRISONER.
THAT REASON CAME AFTER THE FACT.
HUH? NOTHING IN PARTICULAR...?
STILL HALF TRUST, HALF DOUBT.
INSTRUCTOR NIKUEDA.
THIRD.
KYORA TOSHUSAI.
I DID.
MY FATHER FORCED ME.
BECAUSE I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF IT.

NORMALLY I WOULDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO ANSWER SUCH PRIVATE QUESTIONS...

...BUT I'M DOING IT NOW WITHOUT EVEN LYING!

I'M BEING FORCED TO ANSWER...

WELL, I CAN CERTAINLY STILL ANSWER, EVEN WITH ONLY 23 SYLLABLES. NO...

...CUTS YOUR VOCABULARY IN HALF.

USING THIS LIPOGRAM...

IT'S BECAUSE THEIR VOCABULARY IS LIMITED.

DO YOU KNOW WHY YOUNG CHILDREN ARE HONEST, IROHAZAKA-KUN?

THIS "VERBAL SLIP CUT BY HALF QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION" ISN'T A GAME.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?

YOU HAVE TO SPEAK CLUMSILY AND NAKED.

SO THERE'LL BE NO EMBELLISHMENTS, DECEPTION, OR AVOIDING THE QUESTION.

...TORTURE.

IT'S LEGAL...

KRAK!

BUT I SHOULD LET YOU ASK AT LEAST ONE QUESTION, OUT OF COMPASSION.

I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD CALL IT A DAY.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT ASKING?

W...

WH...

WHY...

WITH YOUR PSYCHE WORN DOWN TO SUCH AN EXTREME...

KRAK

KRAK

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

In contrast to the answers being clumsy (childish), halving one's vocabulary keeps the questions straightforward. That's why questions from a child get to the heart of the matter. In other words, in this code battle, the questioner (the attacker) has the overwhelming advantage. Since Iroha's code-breaking skills have improved to a certain level, he can now see the rude and presumptuous intentions behind the questions. He ended up answering questions he evaded when I asked them.

Q.16

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★★

WHY DON'T WXRS GO XWXY?

HOW LONG WXLL PXOPLX...

...XXXP XXLLXNG XXCH OTHXR?

...AND ASKED A CHILDISH QUESTION!

OH NO! VERBAL SLIP... I ZONED OUT...

KTNK

!!

UHH...

Y-YUGA—

YOU CAN SPEAK NORMALLY, IROHAZAKA-KUN.

THAT WAS A CLEAR VERBAL SLIP.

IN OTHER WORDS, THIS CODE BATTLE...

...IS A TIE.

YOU SLIPPED UP.

AND I COULDN'T FIND THE WORDS...

...TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

THE SCORE IS TIED AT 1–1.

QUITE BRILLIANT ...

...IROHA-ZAKA-KUN.

SLAM

TAYU-
TAN.

...

!

I NEVER
TOLD YOU
TO GO
THAT FAR.

TAYU-TAN...

COULD YOU STOP CALLING ME THAT?

BUT I WON'T DENY I WANTED PAYBACK FOR YUKAKO.

I COULDN'T FIND THE WORDS. IT'S TRUE.

I NEVER IMAGINED I'D GET ASKED SUCH A CHILDISH QUESTION.

WE'RE NOT LITTLE KIDS ANYMORE...

...YOUNG MISS.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Yugata's "couldn't find the words" for Q. 16 is the first six-star difficulty puzzle. If you're just filling in the blanks, it's one-star (can be solved on sight), but actually it's harder than a five-star (has to be thought through seriously to be solved). Perhaps you could say, "Even if you can't solve it, continue thinking about it." Regarding the relationship between the villainous young lady and Yugata, I'm not really sure. Although I'm very familiar with machines, I know little about human relationships.

HEH HEH...

HEH...

I'M NOT HURT AT ALL. NO REASON TO FEEL BITTER—

STOPPING WARS AND SAVING CODE WARRIORS... SHE JUST CORRECTED MY ARROGANCE, DIDN'T SHE?

HONESTLY, I THINK THIS IS THE NATURAL RESULT.

IT'S ALMOST BEEN GOING TOO WELL SO FAR.

1-A Number 1
Iroha
Irohazaka
Born Nov. 21

FOR ME, ANYWAY...

WELL... I DID MY BEST, RIGHT?

SWSH

HOW FRUSTRAT-ING!!

NEVER! NEVER AGAIN!!

IF FEELING THIS KIND OF HUMILIATION...

SO, SO,,SO FRUSTRATING!

STRIPPED OF EVERYTHING, TREATED LIKE A CHILD, PATRONIZED!

TO ANYONE! AGAINST ANY CODE!

I'LL NEVER LOSE AGAIN!

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

STOMP

Chapter 12:

PATIENCE IS THE SOURCE OF ETERNAL PEACE—TREAT ANGER AS A CODE

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation:
Kumar Sivasubramanian
Lettering: Steve Outro

TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

YES.
THAT WAS SUR-PRISING.
WAS THAT...
...IROHA IROHA-ZAKA?
Toshusai Faction
Yukako Omomuro
Yukako's Friend
Ashibi Mokumokuren
TOMP
SHRAAK
HE LOOKED ANGRY.
THAT'S SO UNLIKE HIM.


MY, MY...
IROHA-ZAKA-KUN...
IS THAT YOU?

WHAT OF IT?

AH, YES.

IROHAZAKA-KUN WAS OVER THERE EATING UDON UNTIL A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

YAP, ガヤ YAP ガヤ

Toshusai Faction
Tayu Yugata

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHY?

HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS REALLY ANGRY, SO I WAS CONCERNED FOR HIM.

IS THAT SO? WELL...

THAT WAY OF INTRODUCING FLASHBACKS IS SO OUTDATED!

ほわほわほわ～ん
FLOOF FLOOF FLOOF

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE OF...

OH!

NOPE.

Q.17

Difficulty Level: ★★★☆☆

IT'S A LETTER TO PATCH THINGS UP.

You lose battles because you're a small fry. You're the weakest of them all. You don't have much interest in working on codes anyway, do you?

OKAY. HERE.

...JUST LOOKING AT LETTERS STILL MAKES ME DIZZY...

WHUP

W-WHAT? YUGATA-SAN...

I WON'T SAY WHO'S AT FAULT, BUT...

...

AND I DON'T WANT THINGS TO BE AWKWARD WITH MY CLASSMATE.

WELL, MAYBE I DID GO TOO FAR.

The young miss was angry too.

FLAP

CIVIL WAR TELEPHONE

CUT APART DANCE

IT'S FINE... I'LL SOLVE THAT ON MY OWN SOON ENOUGH.

OH, BUT...

...IN THAT CASE...

FOR INSTANCE, I DON'T EVEN MIND IF IT'S ABOUT YUKAKO'S CODE.

YOU CAN TAKE THIS AS AN APOLOGY...

I'LL ANSWER ONE QUESTION, NO STRINGS ATTACHED.

UM...

WHY DOES SHE TALK ABOUT BUTTS SO MUCH?

...I HAVE ONE ABOUT TOSHIISAI-SAN.

WHY DOES SHE...UHH, HOW CAN I PUT IT...?

BUT THAT KIND OF LANGUAGE CAN INVITE MISUNDER-STANDING AND TENSION...

TO BE FRANK, SHE'S ACTUALLY A GOOD PERSON.

WELL, OF COURSE, SHE'S FREE TO SAY WHAT SHE WANTS...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

I'll let you handle the "Ice Cold Reading" of Q. 17 this time. Sometimes it's interesting to leave a question unsolved. Following the conversation, it appears that Iroha solved it by working with Yugata. The result of his battle with Yugata was a bit of a letdown, but he's continuing to develop!

NOM もぐ NOM もぐ

HUH?

IT WAS...

...A PUNISH-MENT GAME.

KISS...

.MY...

...ASS.

...TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT REAR ENDS TEN TIMES A DAY SINCE THEN.

BODY S THAT MORE!

I'M HERE TO GIVE IT A KICK IN THE ASS.

DO YOU WANT TO BE TOLD I'LL KICK YOUR BUTT SO HARD THAT YOUR BACK TEETH WILL RATTLE?

SHE WAS THE LOSER IN A CERTAIN CODE BATTLE...

...SO THE YOUNG MISS HAS BEEN OBLIGATED...

THIS HAS LIT A REAL FIRE UNDER MY BUTT.

WHY NOT SIT YOUR BUTT DOWN?

AI MAS HOW YOU

IT'S JUST LIKE THAT—

REMEMBER WHEN THE YOUNG MISS LOST TO YOU? SHE WAS SINCERE WHEN SHE KNELT BEFORE YOU, WASN'T SHE?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Regarding butts, apparently the explanation for "Do you want to be told I'll kick your butt so hard that your back teeth will rattle?" in chapter 6 was completely wrong. (The villain girl's use of the phrase was perfectly fine.) Sorry about that. Sorry to Kyora too (though that's probably not what you want me to apologize about). I thought about fixing it in the graphic novel, but, looking back I think there's meaning in leaving text that's wrong but looks right, so that's why I've decided to leave it to reflect my work. The explanation was wrong, but people like a cock-and-bull story sometimes too.

KTNK

ガヴ

...

NO...

...KYORA-SAN?

WHO IMPOSED THAT PUNISHMENT ON...

NOHIME... IT WAS IESUNO NOHIME.

CLASS 1-A, NUMBER 12, BORN MARCH 14.

THE CLASS'S... NO, THE ACADEMY'S SOLE MEMBER OF NOBILITY.

HEH HEH... I WONDERED WHAT WAS GOING ON.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YES, THAT DID HAPPEN.

BUT IF I MAY EXPLAIN...

WHAT'S WRONG, NOHIME-SAN?

YOU IN SOME KIND OF ARGUMENT?

Nohime Clan Informant
Akina Namasu

Nohime Clan Houseguest
Shokuho Yorokawa

Nohime Knights Brigade
Ransurotto Hahakura

IROHA-ZAKA-KUN! WHOA...

IS THIS A PARTY?

Tsubamezaka Alliance
Sunka Umitsubame

Team Irohazaka
Ensa Kasuri

Oborozaka Alliance
Soboro Oboro

AL-LOW ME...

...TO EXPLAIN...

FACTIONS ARE BOUND TO START FORMING.

THIS MAY BE CIPHER ACADEMY, BUT THE VIBE HERE IS LIKE ANY GIRLS' SCHOOL.

Self-Reliant
Rokaku Yosaimura

Independent
Otamajakushi Mamushihi-shimeki

Individualist
Shitsuke Koshibai

AS A NOBLE WHO RESPECTS HER STATION IN LIFE, IT WAS A NATURAL SHOW...

...OF NOBLESSE OBLIGE.

I ONLY DETERMINED AN APPROPRIATE CATCH-PHRASE AND PRESENTED IT TO HER.

...SO EVEN VULGAR NOUVEAU RICHE OF BASE ORIGINS LIKE YOU CAN UNDER-STAND.

AND WHAT IF YOU DON'T FORGIVE ME...

...COMMON-ER?

EVEN IF YOU'RE ROYALTY...

...THAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR IS UNFORGIV-ABLE!

!

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Noblesse oblige means "an obligation of nobility." In other words, people of privileged status have a duty to society that comes with their privelege. Iesuno Nohime is of a traditional noble class, and her attending Cipher Academy as a common soldier is probably an act of noblesse oblige. My former place of employment, Kick Attack Planning, was a company established by Kyora's parents.

I REQUEST A CODE BATTLE!

AND IF I WIN...

...TOSHUSAI-SAN'S PUNISHMENT IS VOIDED!

?

"IT'S ELEMEN-TARY."

SPEAKING OF FAVORITE CATCH-PHRASES ...

...YOU HAVE ONE TOO.

*NOTE: *ELEMENTARY* IS PRONOUNCED "IROHA-NO-I" IN JAPANESE.

THEREFORE, IN THE EVENT I WIN...

...YOUR CATCHPHRASE SHOULD CHANGE...

A COMMONER NEEDS TO BEAR MODERATION IN MIND.

IT'S ONLY REASONABLE THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW *YOUR PLACE.*

I'VE FELT FOR A WHILE NOW THAT IT'S AN UNPLEASANT THING TO SAY.

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE SUCH A RENOWNED WARRIOR THAT YOU SHOULD CALL OUT YOUR NAME SO LOUDLY.

...FROM "ELEMEN-TARY"...

...TO "BUTT-END."

KLAT

GOT IT.

...HOW YOU...

SO THAT'S ...

KRAT

I SEE...

KOFF!

...HUMAN DIGNITY!

WH

AM

...ON...

...TRAMPLE...

I'VE CHALLENGED YOU, NOHIME-SAN.

THAT RULE IS ELEMENTARY!

KRAT

HAVE FUN PRESENTING THE QUESTION.

WELL THEN, GO AHEAD, IROHAZAKA-KUN.

IROIRO, HERE.

USE THIS SHEET OF PAPER.

I really like...

...all those catch-phrases.

IT'S CUSTOMARY FOR THE ONE REQUESTING THE CODE BATTLE TO SET THE QUESTION.

HUH...?

THE *QUESTION*?

THIS MUST BE HIS FIRST MATCH DOING THAT.

NOPE.

RIGHT.

HAS IROHAZAKA-KUN EVER SET THE QUESTION BEFORE...?

!

COULD YOU LEND ME YOUR NOTES?

...EN-CHAN?

YOU HAD MUSIC CLASS TODAY, DIDN'T YOU...

HOW IS IROHAZAKA-KUN GOING TO DEAL WITH THIS?!

SOLVING AND CREATING REQUIRE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SKILLS...

...

AND IT ANNOYED ME THAT IROHAZAKA-KUN ACTED LIKE HE WAS GOOD FRIENDS WITH THE YOUNG MISS EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT HER...

WHY...? I MADE A PROMISE.

ISN'T THAT PART COMPLETELY ABOUT YOUR OWN PERSONAL FEELINGS?!

WHY WOULD YOU TELL IROHAZAKA-KUN SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!

THT

THT

THT

"NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE OF..." IS THAT ALL YOU CAN SAY?!

TMP

TMP

TMP

TMP

TMP

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The other part also concerns personal feelings.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Iroha and Ensa became friendly enough to start using nicknames, and I can't help but feel jealous. If you treat a nickname as a code name, that's a kind of cipher, so let's try to decode it. For Iroha Irohazaka, she's taken the first half of his given name and surname to make "Iroiro." As for Ensa Kasuri, it's quite easy to see he's made "En-chan" from Ensa, but could it also have something to do with "Enchant"? Expect the "En-chan and Iroiro!" spin-off in *Jump GIGA* in the not-too-distant future! (Just kidding.)

WIN, LOSE, OR TIE...IROHA IROHAZAKA WON'T JUST BE WALKING AWAY FROM THIS!

IESUNO NOHIME IS THE PRESENT HEAD OF THE FAMILY THAT FOUNDED THE ACADEMY!

SHE'S THE MASTERMIND BEHIND SCOUTING KOGOE HORAGATOGE FOR CLASS M!

DONE!

THERE!

カリカリカリカリ

SKRIT

SKRIT-

SKRIT

SKRIT

Q.18

Difficulty Level: ★★★☆☆

...VERY FIRST CIPHER!

IROHA IROHA-ZAKA'S...

...ARE FORBIDDEN BY HOUSE RULES.

I'M AFRAID REVOLUTIONS AND EIGHT ENDERS...

33rd Head of the Nohime Clan
Iesuno Nohime

IT'S THE SONG OF REVOLUTION.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO, NOBLE-WOMAN.

Representative of the Masses
Iroha Irohazaka

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

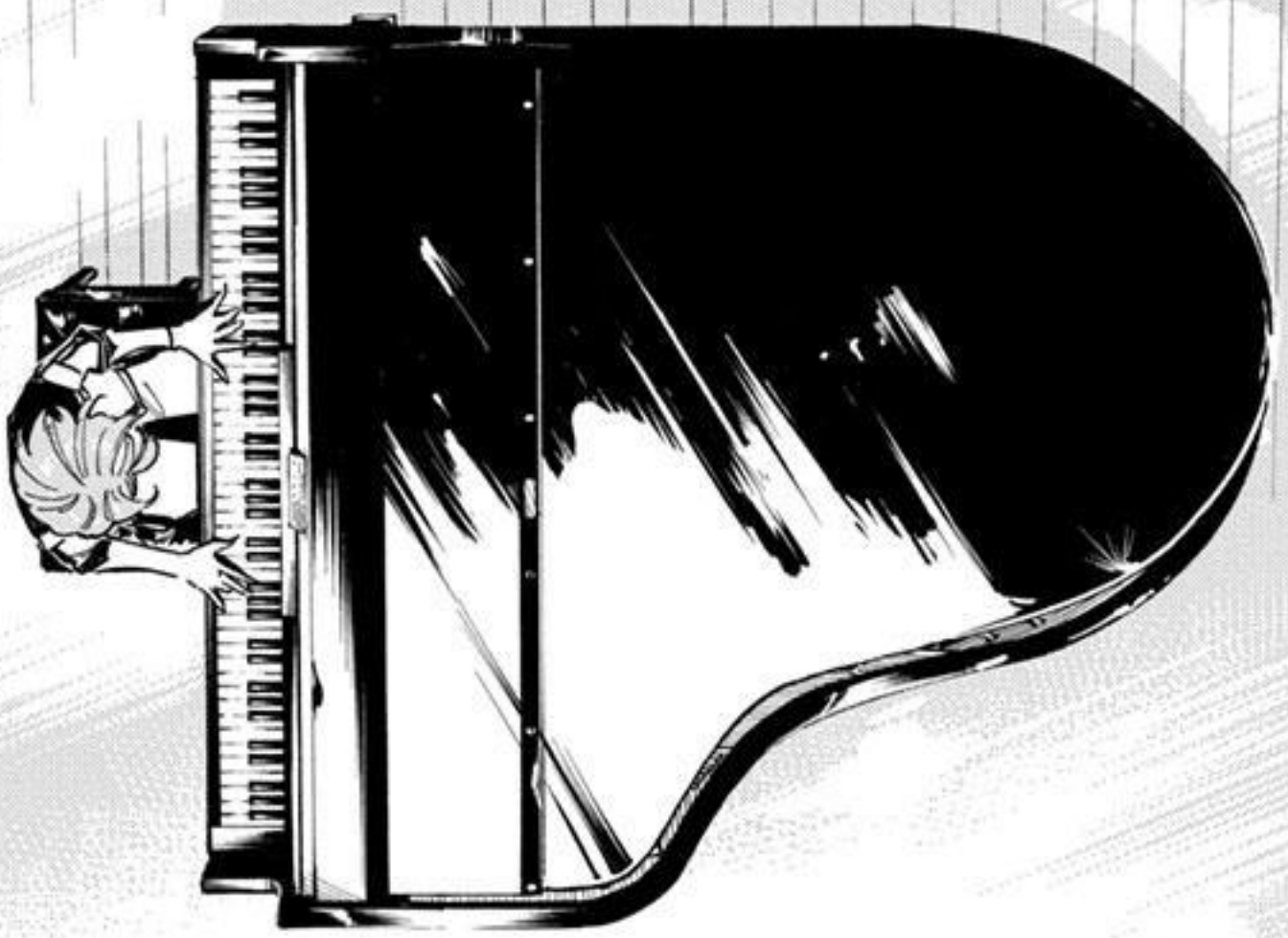


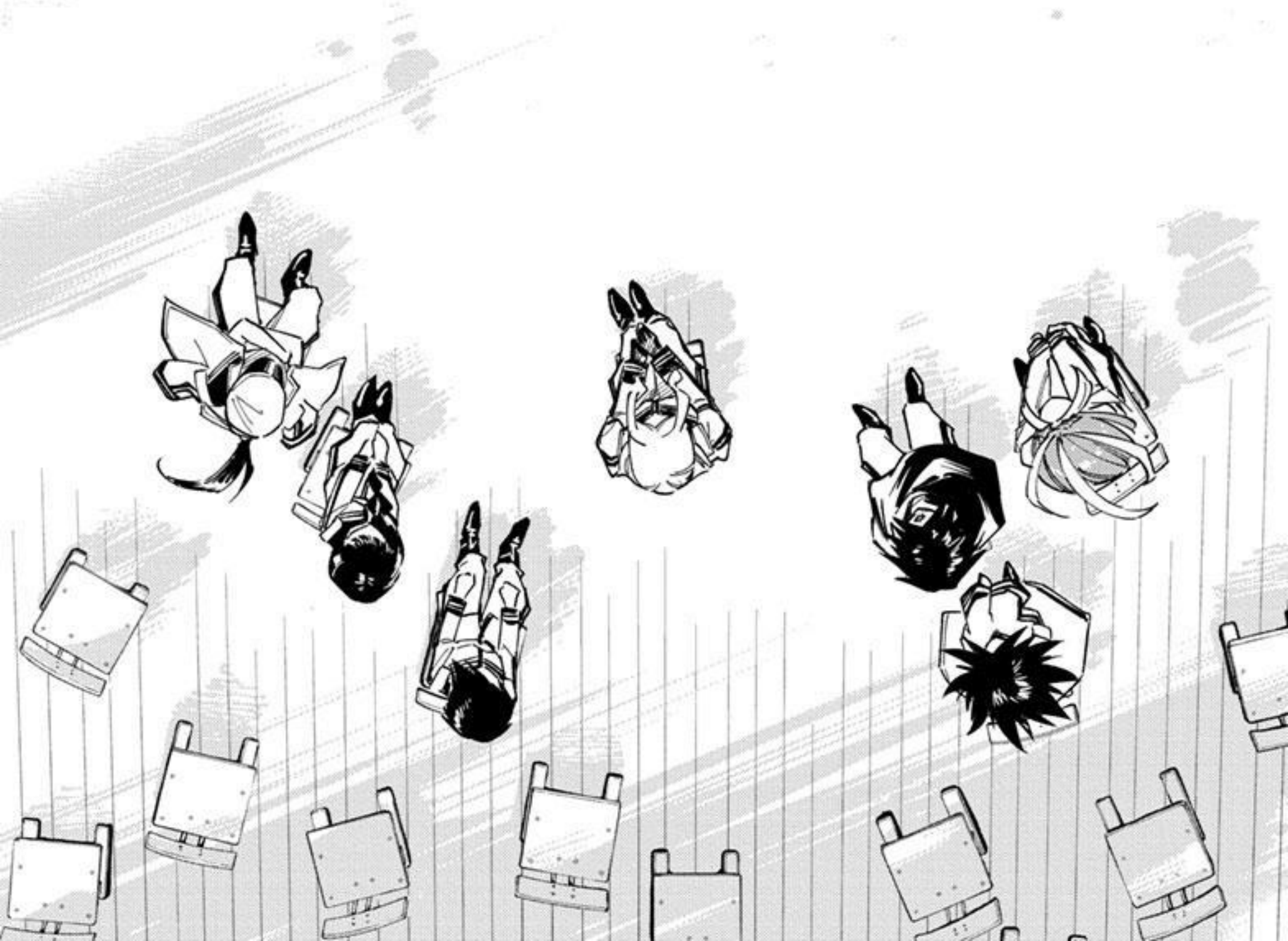
Chapter 13: TO HIDE THE SOLUTION IN A SMILE

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation:
Kumar Sivasubramanian
Lettering: Steve Outro

Special thanks to Kenta Toyoda
for translation assistance





Penalty:
Change of catchphrase (for Irohazaka)
or
Punishment imposed on Toshusai about rear ends invalidated (for Nohime)

Code Battle
Iroha Irohazaka (Questioner)
vs.
Iesuno Nohime (Answerer)

...BUT THIS COULD MAKE FOR QUITE THE CONTEST.

WHEN HE WAS WRITING THE SHEET MUSIC, HIS CODE MAKING SEEMED CLUMSY...

IROHAZAKA-KUN CAME UP WITH AN IDEA DESPITE HIS INEXPERIENCE.

A CODE INVOLVING PLAYING THE PIANO...

GET READY TO BE COR-NERED.

SEPPA!

パン CLAP

パン CLAP

NOHIME-SAN, *SOMOSAN!* ARE YOU READY?

THAT'S IT FOR THE QUESTION.

チャン... PLINK

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

At the end of the last chapter, Iroha raged, "All right, let's go, noblewoman," but apparently he meant, "Let's go to the music room." In kanji *somosan* and *seppa* are written as 作麼生 and 説破 , and they're like indicators during an interrogation. *Seppa*, when it means "to be cornered," is written differently.

WHEN DID YOU NOTICE...

...THAT I WAS GOING BLIND?

NO NEED TO BE SHY.

IT'S NOT WIDELY KNOWN, BUT IT'S NOT A SECRET EITHER.

...

IN THE CLASSROOM BEFORE.

I WAS STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU...

...AND YOU SEEMED UNCERTAIN OF WHO I WAS.

IROHA-ZAKA-KUN...

IS THAT YOU?

ALL RIGHT! THAT'LL DO!

I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU DIDN'T KNOW MY NAME...

...BUT YOU DID THE SEATING TETRONOMY.

SO I THOUGHT, IF IT WASN'T MY NAME...

...THEN IT WAS PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T SEE ME.

HEH HEH.

IN THE PAST, I LOOKED DIRECTLY AT A *DAZZLING CODE*...

THAT SAID, THANKS TO A CERTAIN INVENTOR'S *GLASSES WEAPON*...

...IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE COM-PLETELY LOST MY SIGHT.

AND I'M BLESSED TO HAVE SUPPORTIVE FRIENDS.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE CONCERNED FOR ME...

...SO WHY DID YOU MAKE A MUSIC-BASED CODE?

ALL THIS DESPITE FEELING ENRAGED WITH THE WAY I TRAMPLE ON OTHERS.

I...

EVEN IF I WAS TRAMPLED ON BY SOMEONE...

...I WOULD NEVER BE WILLING TO STEP ONTO THE WRONG PATH.

STEP-PING ONTO THE WRONG PATH?

YOU MEAN REGARDING MORALITY?

OR ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT LAND MINES?

HOW VULGAR OF ME TO SMILE LIKE THAT.

EXCUSEZ MOI.

...IROHA-ZAKA-KUN.

I MIS-JUDGED YOU...

BUT I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN SEPARATE EMOTION AND REASON.

IT'S LIKE CHOPIN'S "REVOLU-TIONARY ÉTUDE"... THE ANGER OF THE MASSES ...

WHAM

FOR THAT MUSICAL PERFOR-MANCE, CONVERTED TO SHEET MUSIC...

...EACH MEASURE HAS FOUR BEATS...

IN WHICH CASE, I WON'T MISREAD YOUR CODE.

ARE YOU READY TO CHANGE YOUR CATCH-PHRASE?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Excusez moi is French for "excuse me." Of course, I developed artificial eyes for Nohime, but they're not all-powerful. Artificial eyes are a heavy burden on the user. I'll go into more detail later.

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH.

I, KYORA TOSHUSAI, AM TAKING OVER THIS CODE BATTLE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS, THEN TAKE ME ON.

THIS PERSON REALLY IS ON ANOTHER LEVEL.

SHE MIGHT BE A CONCERNED PARTY, BUT TO FORCEFULLY CUT INTO THEIR CONTEST LIKE THAT...

SHOW-ING UP LATE TO THE PARTY...

ZWF

CLOP

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Kasuri Ensa takes great pride in her speed. The Toshusai faction was probably slowed down because they went to class 1-A. And perhaps they heard that everyone went to the music room from Rokaku Yosaimura and the others while there. Well, where did Kyora-san go? That I don't know. Even the villain girl gets to have her privacy.

HOW'S IT GOING, IROHAZAKA-KUN?

NOT VERY WELL, I IMAGINE.

I HEAR THAT A *GENTLEMAN* GOT ANGRY...

...OVER A POOR GIRL WHOSE DIGNITY WAS COMPROMISED.

I'M ANGRY BECAUSE A *FRIEND* WAS MADE A FOOL OF.

GENDER HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

A *FRIEND*?

I never said it like that.

THANK YOU.

FOR FINALLY BECOMING MY FRIEND.

NOT AT ALL, TOSHUSAI-SAN...

...

WELL, THAT'S WHAT I WOULD SAY, BUT...

...MY NOBLE LADY.

MY FRIEND JUMPED THE GUN AND CAUSED QUITE THE HEADACHE...

NOW, THEN.

NON NON.

GUESS I'VE BEEN TOO MUCH OF A TIGHT-ASS.

...KYORA-RIN.

...THE REAL HEADACHE IS THAT YOU CONTINUE OUR PUNISHMENT GAME FROM BACK *WHEN WE WERE IN KINDERGARTEN...*

!!

...STARTED AS A SIMPLE GAME AND NOTHING MORE.

...BUT THE REAR END PUNISH-MENT...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TAYU-SAN TOLD YOU...

...WERE *CHILD-HOOD FRIENDS.*

THOSE TWO...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

I would like to explain that *ketsu* in the verb suffix *ketsukaru* (which is loosely rendered here in English as tight-ass) is not the *ketsu* meaning "butt." However, I'm an idiot when it comes to the Kansai dialect, so I'll keep my mouth shut.

I SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST CHECKED WITH YOU, TOSHUSAI-SAN!

I HAD NO IDEA ABOUT YOUR RELATION-SHIP, BUT I CAME IN ALL FAMILIAR, ACTING LIKE I KNEW!

I-I'M SO SORRY!

WE CAN CALL THE GAME OFF THIS TIME.

NO, IROHA-ZAKA-KUN.

I'LL CHANGE MY CATCH-PHRASE AS PUNISHMENT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT!

EVERYONE, FORGIVE ME! I GOT YOU ALL CAUGHT UP IN THIS BECAUSE I HAD THINGS WRONG...

Actually, we didn't know either.

I'D AT LEAST LIKE TO CHECK THE ANSWER.

BUT I WONDER...

A NOBLE COULD NEVER SERIOUSLY IMPOSE THAT KIND OF PENALTY.

OH REALLY?

IN ORDER TO AVOID FACTIONAL INFIGHTING, I SIMPLY LED YOU INTO A CODE BATTLE BETWEEN INDIVIDU-ALS.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Can't say this too loudly, but regarding their relationship (beyond social status), I was a technical consultant for the military company Kick Attack Planning when the Nohime family poached me into class M. That caused a bit of discord between Kyora-san and Nohime-san. But on the flip side, was their relationship so casual that they would be parted over a minor dispute? Could the nickname "Non non" be French?

WITH THE LEFT AND RIGHT HANDS, YOU USED 24 LETTERS.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

YOUA POLO GIZE

TOKY ORAF ORUS

THE NOTES OF THIS SHEET MUSIC CAN BE TREATED AS BRAILLE, RIGHT?

EVERY BEAT FORMS A LETTER OF THE ALPHABET.

Leck mich im Arsch.

AND IT WAS COMPOSED SO THAT IF I ANSWERED CORRECTLY...

...I WOULD BE APOLOGIZING TO KYORA-RIN. BRILLIANT.

...AND I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU REPLACED "ASS" WITH SOMETHING MORE GRACEFUL.

YOU APOLOGIZE TO KYORA FOR US

YOU APOLOGIZE TO KYORA FOR ASS

あなたは臀部のことで享楽に謝る。

OF SPECIAL NOTE IS THE FINAL "US."

THAT'S WHAT IT SPELLS ON THE SHEET MUSIC...

*Note: The English words *us* and *ass* are pronounced identically by Japanese speakers.

...FOR YOU TO TRY TO WIN AGAINST ME UNDER FAIR CONDITIONS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT COULD BE SEEN AS A SLAP TO THE FACE...

BUT THE THING THAT REALLY IMPRESSED ME...

...IS THE SPIRIT OF CHIVALRY IN COMPOSING A CODE IN MUSIC AND BRAILLE.

BUT IT ENDED UP WITH ME APOLOGIZING...

HEH HEH...

AND "US" WAS ACTUALLY A SPELLING MISTAKE...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

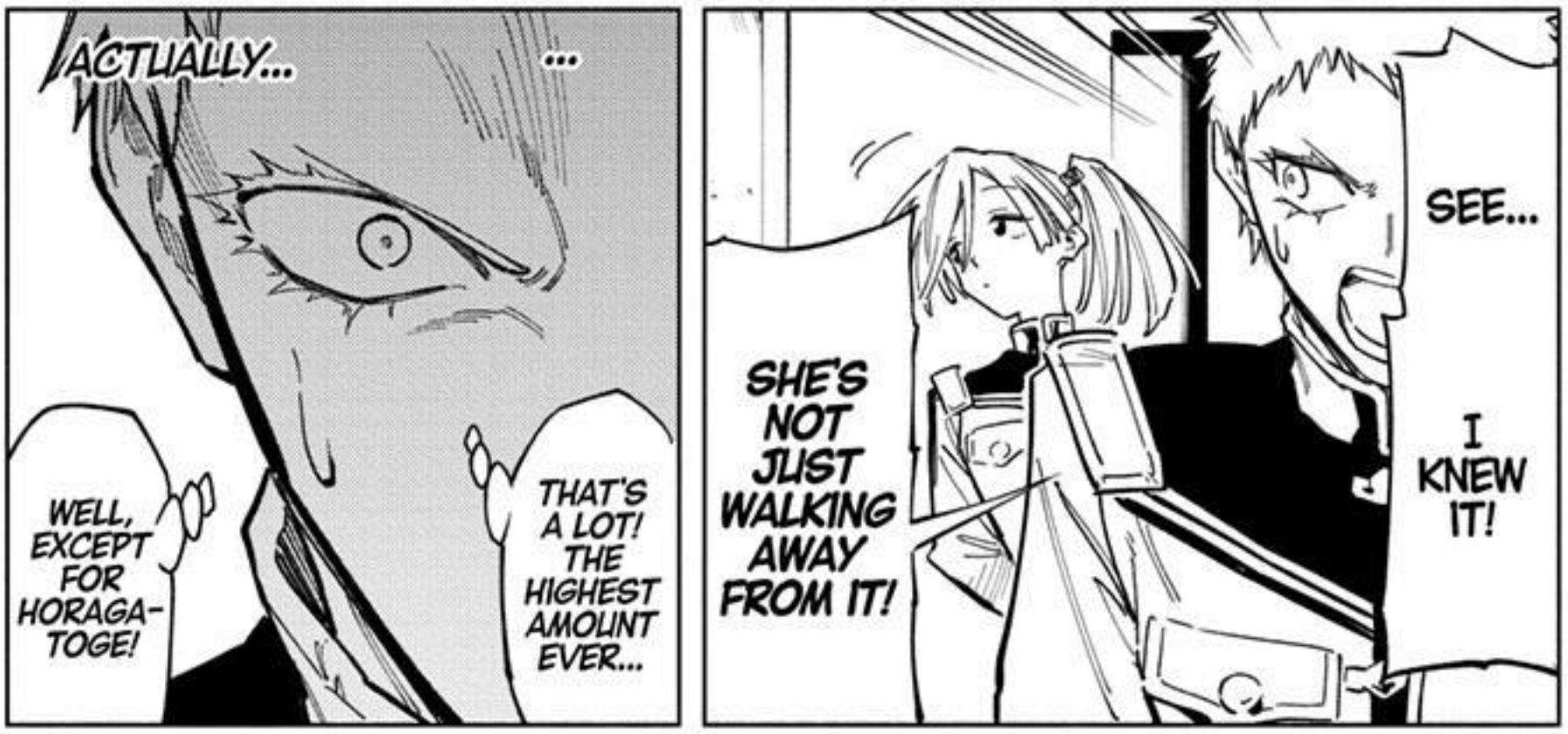
Braille is French in origin and is named after its inventor, Louis Braille. Since notes in a line are all separate, Iroha made points with the notes on the musical staff. Incidentally, the "Leck mich im Arsch" which Kyora-san mumbles, is a famous song by the musical genius Mozart.

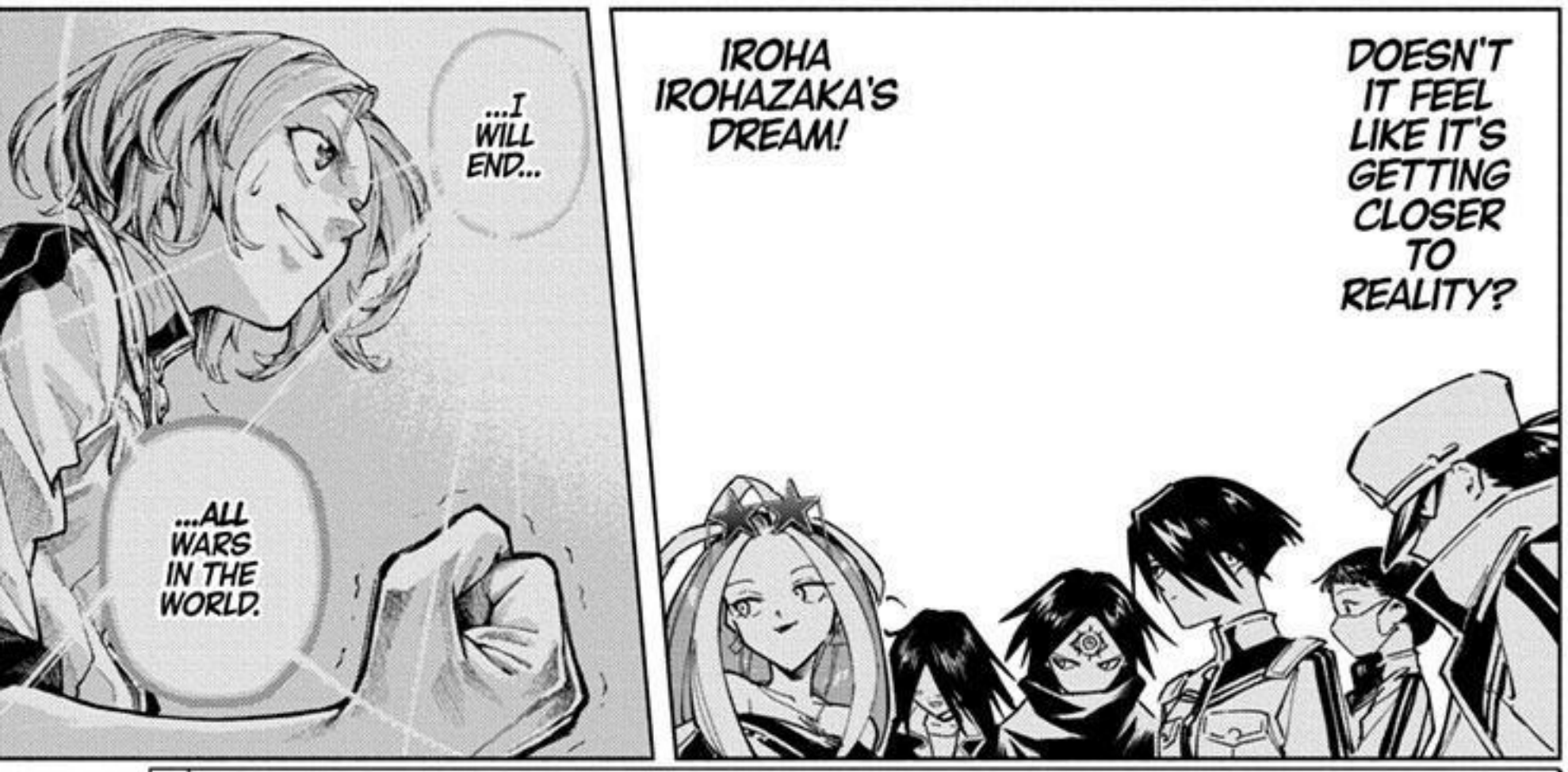
I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU...

...IROHA IROHAZAKA.

OUR FAMILY WILL INVEST 100 MILLION MORG IN YOU.







Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Is that what it means to not "just walk away from it"? Giving financial support to culture and the arts is another duty of nobility and a part of noblesse oblige that Nohime-san is at least aware of. Of course, her contributions to an inventor like me and scouting me for class M are based in that thought process too.

A BACKER!

A PATRON!

THE LATEST WEAPONS!

AN ALLIANCE!

...IF HE CAN ACQUIRE RANK AND POSITION...

AND AFTER THAT...

NO, NO, SHIBORI-CHAN.

IT'S NOT A BAD THING TO WORK ON ANALOG STUFF FROM TIME TO TIME.

YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP, HORAGA-TOGE.

IT WAS A SUDDEN REQUEST, I KNOW, BUT YOU FINISHED IT VERY QUICKLY.

COUNSELOR

...IN CLASS M LIKE YOU COULD MAKE.

BUT THIS IS A CODE THAT ONLY AN *INFORMED SOURCE*...

CAN'T SAY THAT TOO LOUDLY THOUGH.

TO THINK, A STUDENT DESIGNED HER OWN SCHOOL'S *TEACHING MATERIALS*.

*Title: Murder at Cipher Academy

暗号学園殺人事件

MURDER AT CIPHER ACADEMY!

LEADING PRIVATE SELECTION PART TWO.

WAR GAME MURDER MYSTERY...

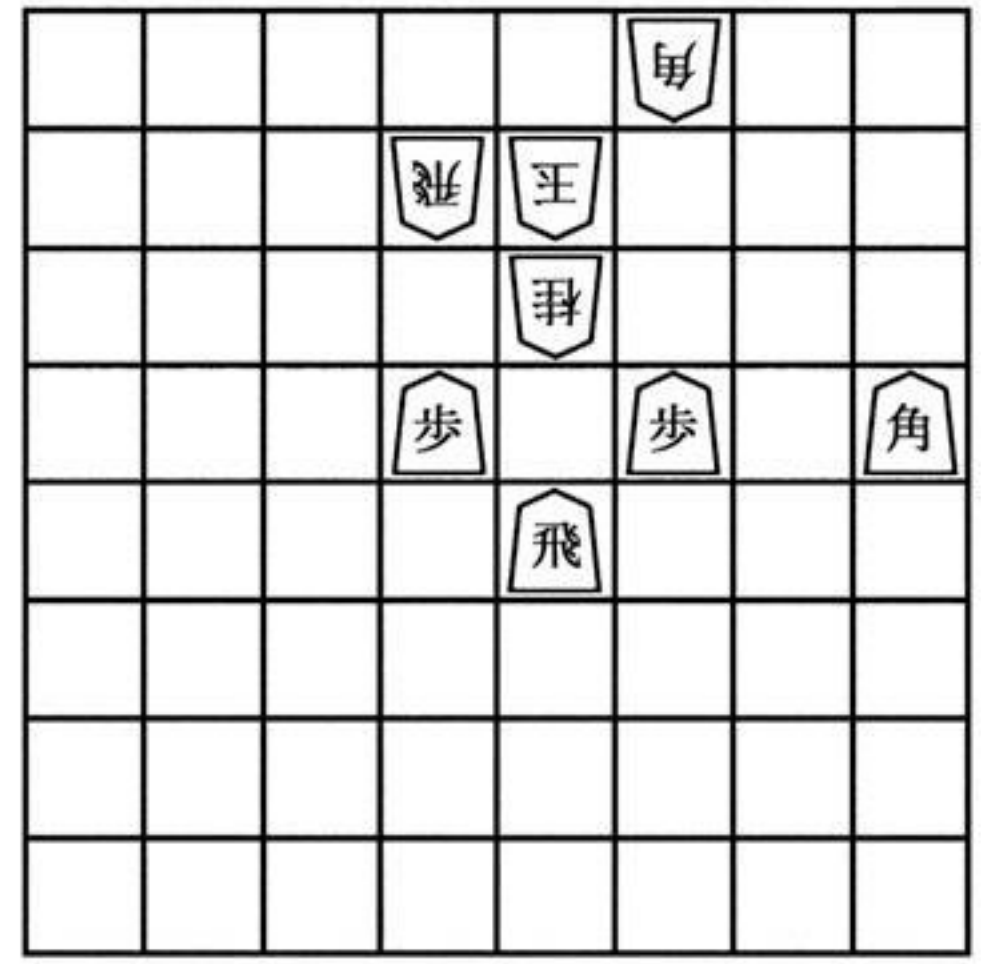
To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

Q.19

Difficulty Level: ★★★☆☆

Fool's Mate Minefield



*Shogi pieces:
飛 hisha (rook)
桂 keima (knight)
角 kakugyou (bishop)
歩 hohei (pawn)
玉 oushou (king)



TODAY, WE'LL BEGIN BY SPLITTING YOU UP INTO GROUPS.

ONCE YOU'VE *FIGURED OUT WHERE THE MINE IS...*

...COME UP AND WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE BOARD.

THE VICTORS OF GROUPS A TO D...

	A	B	C	D
5				
4				
3				
2				
1				

...WILL THEN BE ABLE TO MOVE THEIR PIECES ON TO THE THIRD PART.

IN OTHER WORDS, IF I LOSE HERE, I'M OUT!

IT'S AN ELIMINATION ROUND!

THIS IS ELEMENTARY!

AND I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULDN'T LOSE AGAIN!

I'M DONE.

!!

WHOA!

EN-CHAN MUST REALLY WANT TO WIN TODAY!

SEEMS LIKE TOSHUSAI WAS JUST SLIGHTLY FASTER.

GO ON AND CHOOSE THE GROUP YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN IN ORDER.

STILL...

AS YOU WISH, INSTRUC-TOR.

YOU REVERTED BACK SO QUICKLY!

THIS IS SOME KIND OF GRUDGE AGAINST ME TOO!

"C" FOR "CODE"...

THERE'S NO POINT IN BEING FIRST IN A SELECTION LIKE THIS...

...YET KASURI-SAN WAS RIGHT ON MY TAIL.

SPEED ISN'T THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR THIS ROUND...

THEN I CAN TAKE ON A SUPPORT ROLE FOR THE REAL BATTLE.

INSTEAD, I THINK I'LL JOIN A DIFFERENT GROUP AND TRY TO BOOST MY CHANCES OF BEING WITH IRO-IRO.

I have no intention of becoming the leading private after all.

"B" FOR "BEST FRIEND"...

?

...AND CONTINUE COMPETING WITH TOSHIISAI-SAN.

I COULD ALSO JOIN GROUP C...

...ENDED UP GETTING FILLED FIRST.

	A	B	C	D
5		海燕寸暇		
4	瞻 商	要塞村卤猴	夕方夕夕	小芝井朕
3	母倉乱数論	沼田馬飛噗	濃姫家雪	日々蓮馬酔木
2	羊狼川食穂	牡丹山春霧	朧そぼろ	朧音噛音
1	徐綿菓子	絣 綾沙	東洲斎写楽	真蛇狩蝋好

HOWEVER, EN-CHAN'S GROUP...

Akina Namasu	Sunka Umitsubame	Tayu Yugata	Shitsuke Koshibai
Ransurotto Hahakura	Rokaku Yosaimura	Iesuno Nohime	Ashibi Mokumokuren
Shokuho Yorokawa	Shutan Nutaba	Soboro Oboro	Kakune Karigane
Yukako Omomuro	Harukiri Botayama	Kyora Toshusai	Otamajakushi Mamushihishimeki
	Ensa Kasuri		

I SCREWED UP...

I SCREWED UP...

...SO I'M PUTTING A STOP TO THAT! HAH!

SORRY, BUT YOU TWO ARE SIMPLY TOO POWERFUL WHEN YOU WORK TOGETHER...

THAT'S THE SAME THING AS LOSING FOR REAL!

EVEN IF I RUN OUT OF TIME, I SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REAL BATTLE... I CAN'T LOSE HOPE!

FWAA

Sorry, En-chan...

READING!!

ICE

(AIR!!)

COLD

I KNEW IT...

YEAH...

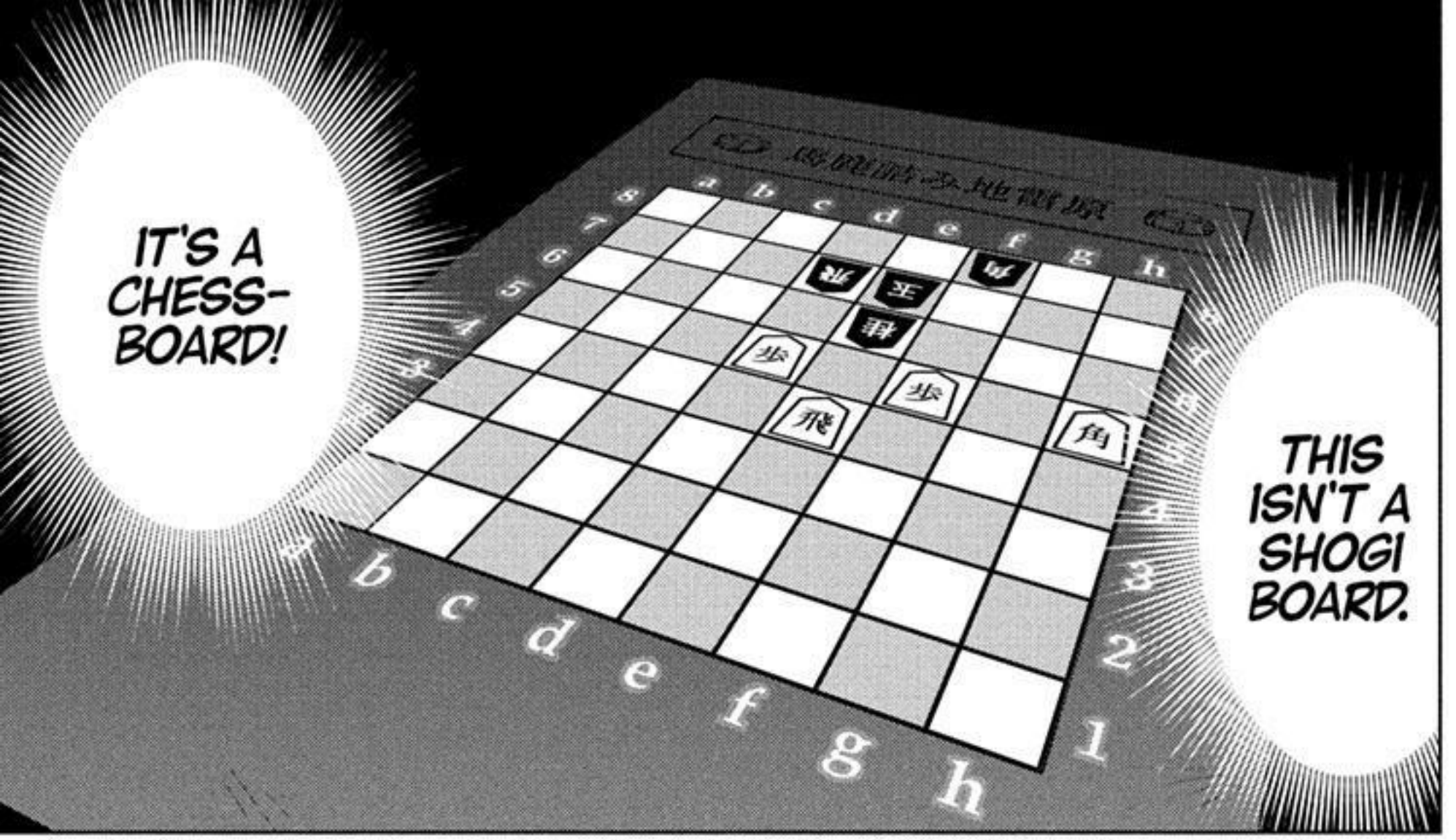
...AND "FOOL'S MATE" IS ORIGINALLY A TERM FROM THE OTHER GAME.

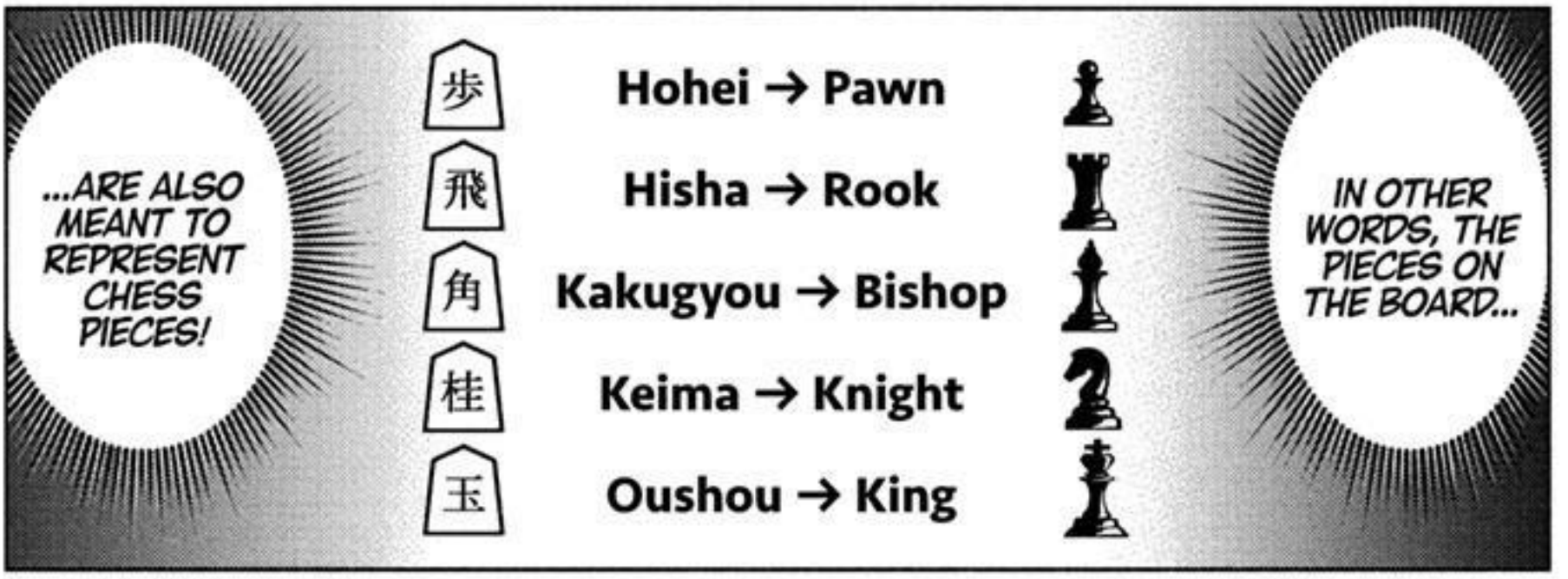
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THIS IS AN 8 X 8 BOARD...

馬鹿詰み地雷原

盤!

Board!









Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Shogi is played on a 9 x 9 board (81 spaces), but chess is played on an 8 x 8 board (64 spaces). While shogi positions use Arabic numerals and kanji, chess positions use Arabic numerals and the alphabet. The queen is the only chess piece that doesn't have a shogi counterpart, while the shogi pieces *kinshou* (gold general), *ginshou* (silver general), and *kyousha* (lance) don't have chess counterparts. Obviously, the chart on the blackboard is a chessboard due to ascending numbers on the side. Personally, I think Shibori-chan gave way too many hints. But that Ice Cold Reading (Air) was something else...

a b c d e f g h

8 7 6 5 4

YOU HAVE TO LEAD YOUR OPPONENT INTO A CHECKMATE WITH THEIR OWN PIECES!

A MISTAKE!

...BUT UNLIKE THE KEIMA, THE KNIGHT CAN LEAP IN FOUR DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS!

N

桂

THE KNIGHT AND KEIMA ARE SIMILAR IN THAT THEY CAN LEAP OVER OTHER PIECES...

*Keima

THIS ISN'T A CHECKMATE BORN OUT OF AN OPPONENT'S MISTAKE, BUT FROM PURE BETRAYAL!

NO! IT'S NOT "FOOL" AS IN "STUPID," BUT "FOOL" AS IN "DECEIVE"!

IF THE KNIGHT ITSELF WAS THE ONE WHO SET THE MINE, THEN...

THE KING'S BEING STABBED IN THE BACK!

a b c d e f g h

8 7 6 5 4 3 2

...DOES THAT MEAN THE MINE'S BEEN HIDDEN WHERE THE PIECE LANDS ON D8?

g h

THIS SORT OF MISTAKE COULD NEVER HAPPEN IN SHOGI.

BUT IF WE WERE TO INTERPRET "FOOL'S MATE" AS "TWO FOOLISH FRIENDS"...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The first letter in *knight* is "k," and it's interesting that it's also the first letter of *keima*. Unfortunately on the actual board, it's represented with an "n" due to the presence of the king. Perhaps that's why the knight betrayed the king... This is also due to a grudge.

I'M DONE!!

THE MINE'S AT E6!

[redacted]

!

...BUT IF I LOOK AT IT FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE, THESE THREE REMAINING SLOTS...

I WASN'T ABLE TO JOIN EN-CHAN IN GROUP B...

NO, I NEED TO STAY POSITIVE! NOW'S MY CHANCE TO TURN THINGS AROUND!

ALL I DID WAS AVOID GETTING THE LAST SPOT, BUT THAT WAS STILL ENOUGH TO MAKE ME GET SUPER EXCITED...

LOOKS LIKE I'M THE BUTT END...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The fool's mate is a checkmate that can be achieved with a minimum of two moves...but it would never actually happen unless someone allows it on purpose. (That's the difference between a fool's mate and *tsume* shogi—puzzles in which the goal is to get a checkmate with the best possible moves.) *Fool* means "stupid," but it can also mean "deceive." Incidentally, Iroha completely neglected to consider the possibility of the king killing himself at F2. But I suppose that would be more of a suicide bombing than a mine.


...ALLOW ME...

...TO CHOOSE MY OPPONENTS.











Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Oboro and Nohime joined Toshusai's group in order to try and resolve their differences in this round, while Yugata joined them as support. The Nohime gang's priority is most likely stamping out Yukako, who joined a different group in order to diversify risks. Of course, the others are probably putting their own plans into motion as well...

!!

IF IT'S COMING DOWN TO A VOTE, THEN IT'S BEST...

...TO LET THE FOUR OF YOU GET TO KNOW ME SINCE WE'VE BARELY TALKED SO FAR...

...WINNING THE FOUR OF YOU OVER WILL BE ELEMENTARY.

BUT HE'S ALSO BASICALLY SAYING...

IRO-IRO ALWAYS GOES FOR THE KILL...

-IS HE ALREADY TRYING TO GATHER UP VOTES FOR THE FINAL BATTLE?

FOR SOMEONE WHO TALKS ABOUT WANTING TO END ALL WARS...

IROHAZAKA IROHA...

HMM...?

...YOU SURE HAVE A BIZARRE TALENT FOR MAKING ENEMIES. ♡

AFTERWARD, ONCE TIME RAN OUT, ANONYMITY REQUESTED WAS LEFT WITH NO CHOICE...

...BUT TO JOIN GROUP A. (GROUP C WAS LOCKED IN AS A GROUP OF FOUR.)

IT CERTAINLY MAKES MY JOB EASIER.

...HE'S FIRING UP THE MORE MILD-MANNERED STUDENTS, INCLUDING KASURI.

BUT IT'S GREAT TO SEE...

Q.20

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★

*War Simulation
The Murder at Cipher Academy

THE MURDER AT CIPHER ACADEMY!

NOW FOR THE REAL BATTLE...

A MURDER MYSTERY!

WAON WASURENA-GUSA.

THE 20TH CIPHER SOLDIER WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN OUR CLASS...

暗号学園
殺人事件

...WAS TASKED WITH A SECRET MISSION TO EXPOSE A SPY WHO HAD INFILTRATED THIS ACADEMY.

*Title: The Murder at Cipher Academy

BEFORE SHE COULD COMPLETE HER MISSION, WASURENAGUSA WAS MURDERED...

...AND LEFT BEHIND ONLY A HANDFUL OF ENCRYPTED CLUES.

SOLDIERS! YOUR JOB IS TO FINISH YOUR LATE CLASS-MATE'S MISSION...

...FIND THE MURDEROUS TRAITOR, AND FORCE THEM TO DISEMBOWEL THEMSELVES!

THAT IS ALL!

YES, MA'AM

OH, I GET IT NOW...

THIS IS ALL A BACKSTORY FOR THE GAME...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Map manuevers (*heigi enshu* in Japanese) are more commonly known as war simulations or war games and can sometimes include shogi and chessboards. It may seem like you can only make useless armchair theories this way, but that isn't the case. Over thousands of years, the human race has used these methods to hone their military strategies. Therefore, as a warmonger myself, I'm proud to have taken part in the creation of such a test.

EVERYONE IN GROUP D NEEDS TO CHOOSE ONE OF THESE FIVE CARDS...

AM I GOING TO HAVE TO ACT LIKE ONE OF MY CLASSMATES FOR THIS...?

YOU'RE FREE TO PICK ANY OF THE CHARACTER CARDS I'VE PASSED OUT...

...EXCEPT ...

...YOUR OWN. EVEN IF YOU SEE YOUR OWN CARD THERE, IT'S OFF-LIMITS.

Shokichi Yotokaw

Harukiri Botayam

Soboro Oboro

Tayu Yugata

IF THIS IS A MURDER MYSTERY...

...IT MEANS THAT ONE OF US IS GOING TO END UP AS THE SPY WHO KILLED OUR FICTIONAL CLASSMATE...

...WHILE THE REST HAVE TO USE CLUES AND DEDUCTION TO UNMASK THEM, RIGHT?

I GUESS IT'LL BE EASIER...

Harukiri Botayama

...TO ACT LIKE SOMEONE I KNOW.

Soboro Oboro

Tayu Yugata

I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO MY BEST.

I'LL BE FINE! I'M A HUGE JEFFREY DEAVER FAN!!

CAN'T SAY I KNOW MUCH ABOUT YORO-KAWA-SAN...

I'LL GO WITH THIS ONE!

Soboro Oboro

Iroha Irohazaka

Has never read a Sherlock Holmes book

Tayu Yugata

SMAK

Soboro Oboro



Public Information

Attendance Number – 3

Personal Pronoun – Watashi

Birthday – September 26

Catchphrase – Cipher murder.

Favorite Food – Chiraga (stewed pork face skin)

Don't Mention This – Joining the dark side

Morg – 170,000,000

Private Information

The truth is...I'm the spy. But I'm not the one who killed Waon Wasurenagusa. My goal is to find out who killed her and frame them for being the spy as well. No mistakes will be permitted, and I also lose if anyone else dies.

Not-Yet-Public Information

Ex-POW

I spent a year in prison for a crime I didn't commit. That's where I got the eye mark on my forehead. I escaped after figuring out the code number for my cell. I entered Cipher Academy to evade my pursuers and to get revenge on the people in power who pushed false charges on me.

Crafty Information

Colored Glasses

I can decipher any encoded cards related to color during the deciphering phase.

Four-Color Problem

Can be used only once during the inference phase. The target must correctly answer my multiple-choice question with four possible answers.

Resistance to Torture

I can evade interrogations from other soldiers by either lying or staying silent.



...AND NO REAL MURDER WAS COMMITTED AT CIPHER ACADEMY.

NATURAL-LY...

...THIS MURDER MYSTERY IS NOTHING MORE THAN A GAME...

...IT NATURALLY CONTAINS...

...SINCE THIS GAME WAS DESIGNED BY CLASS I-M'S KOGOE HORAGATOGE ...

CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, BUT...

...MIXED IN WITH TRUTHS.

Iroha Irohazaka



Public Information

Attendance Number – 1

Personal Pronoun – Boku

Birthday – November 21

Catchphrase – It's elementary.

Favorite Food – Noodles

Don't Mention This – Dignity destruction

Morg – 1,000,000,000

Private Information

The truth is, I'm the killer. But I'm not the spy. Waon accused an upperclassman who I really admired of something, so I don't regret killing her. I don't care who the spy is, but I don't want either myself or an unrelated party to get arrested. If everyone concludes it was suicide, I win.

Not-Yet-Public Information

Crafty Information

...FALSE INFORMA-TION...

To be continued!

"WHY, THAT'S ELEMENTARY!"

"I'M IROHA IROHAZAKA!"

"A MURDER MYSTERY?"

AND THEY'RE LOVING IT!

AHEM! ゴフッ

HMPH! フン

"SHE'S PRETEND-ING TO BE ME!

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

Glasses Weapon
Blindfold

Greatly lowers the user's decoding ability (Meant for training and handicaps)

Chapter 15:



①	C	H	E	A	P	S	K	A	T	E
②	E	C	H	I	N	A	C	E	A
③	E	X	P	L	O	R	E	R	
④	V	E	R	T	I	G	O		
⑤	R	E	F	U	G	E			
⑥	D	R	E	A	M				
⑦	W	R	E	N					
⑧	I	C	E						
⑨	H	E							
⑩	X								

Across Clues

① A(n) TIGHTWAD with MONEY CHEAPSKATE
② MEDICINE you like for COLDS ECHINACEA
③ Likes ADVENTURES EXPLORER
④ Another word for DIZZINESS VERTIGO
⑤ SAFE in SHELTER REFUGE
⑥ SLEEPERS do this DREAM
⑦ A(n) BIRD of SONGS WREN
⑧ Use this to FREEZE ICE
⑨ The OPPOSITE of SHE HE
⑩ Another word for WRONG X

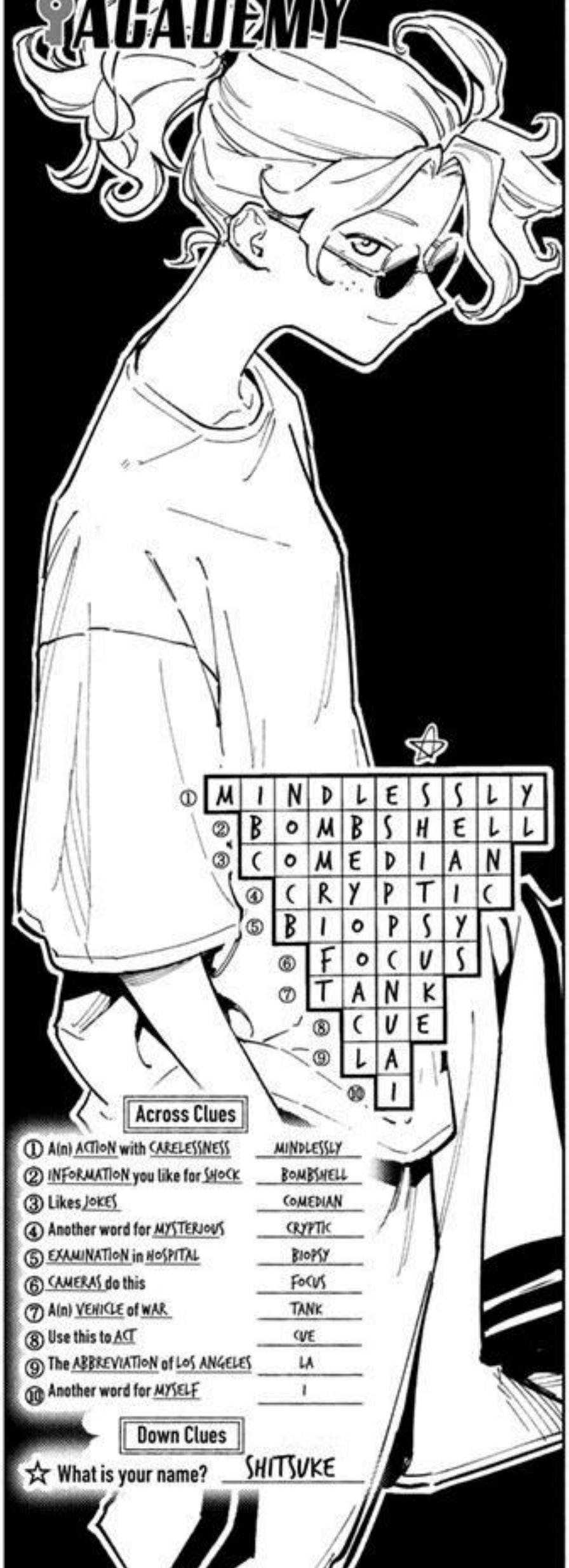
Down Clues

☆ What is your name? KARIGANE

Glasses Weapon
Black About

Can discover hidden codes (No deciphering power)

CIPHER ACADEMY



①	M	I	N	D	L	E	S	S	L	Y
②	B	O	M	B	S	H	E	L	L	
③	C	O	M	E	D	I	A	N		
④	C	R	Y	P	T	I	C			
⑤	B	I	O	P	S	Y				
⑥	F	O	C	U	S					
⑦	T	A	N	K						
⑧	C	U	E							
⑨	L	A								
⑩	I									

Across Clues

① A(n) ACTION with CARELESSNESS MINDLESSLY
② INFORMATION you like for SHOCK BOMBSHELL
③ Likes JOKES COMEDIAN
④ Another word for MYSTERIOUS CRYPTIC
⑤ EXAMINATION in HOSPITAL BIOPSY
⑥ CAMERAS do this FOCUS
⑦ A(n) VEHICLE of WAR TANK
⑧ Use this to ACT CUE
⑨ The ABBREVIATION of LOS ANGELES LA
⑩ Another word for MYSELF I

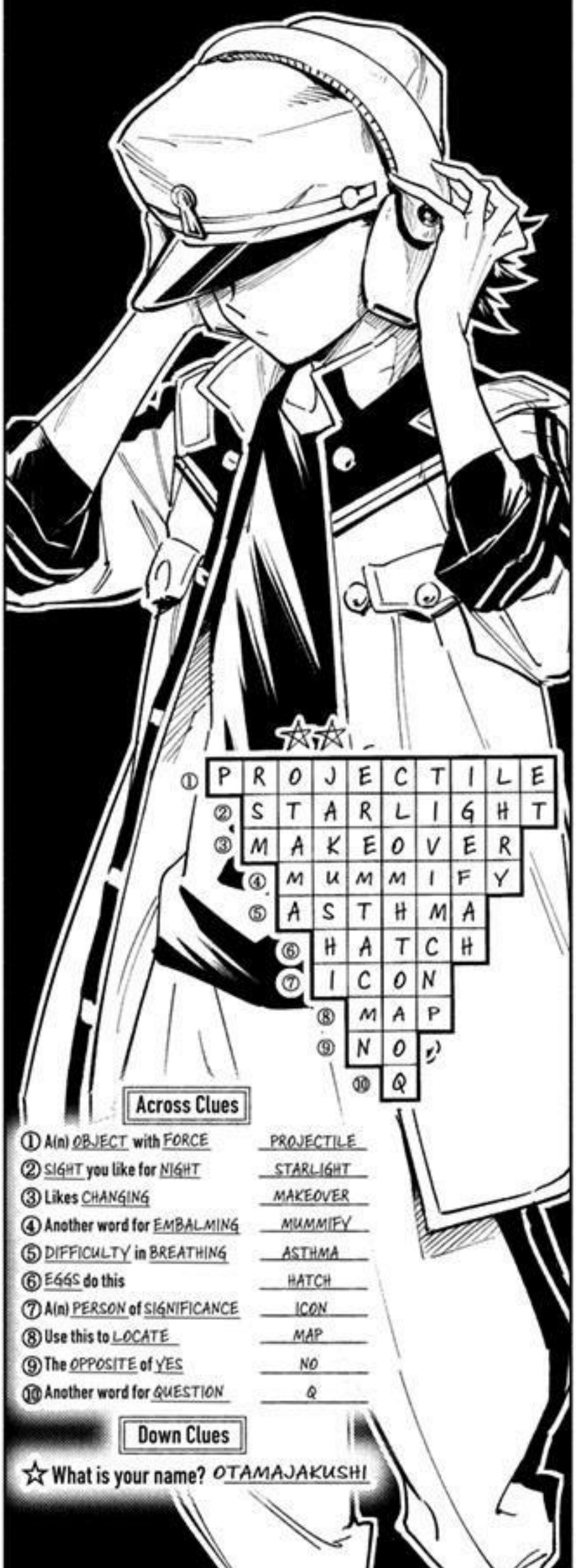
Down Clues

☆ What is your name? SHITSUKE

Glasses Weapon
Noise Counseling

Analyzes noise and turns codes into audio data

...A PAWN'S SOLUTION



①	P	R	O	J	E	C	T	I	L	E
②	S	T	A	R	L	I	G	H	T	
③	M	A	K	E	O	V	E	R		
④	M	U	M	M	I	F	Y			
⑤	A	S	T	H	M	A				
⑥	H	A	T	C	H					
⑦	I	C	O	N						
⑧	M	A	P							
⑨	N	O								
⑩	Q									

Across Clues

① A(n) OBJECT with FORCE — PROJECTILE
② SIGHT you like for NIGHT — STARLIGHT
③ Likes CHANGING — MAKEOVER
④ Another word for EMBALMING — MUMMIFY
⑤ DIFFICULTY in BREATHING — ASTHMA
⑥ EGGS do this — HATCH
⑦ A(n) PERSON of SIGNIFICANCE — ICON
⑧ Use this to LOCATE — MAP
⑨ The OPPOSITE of YES — NO
⑩ Another word for QUESTION — Q

Down Clues

☆ What is your name? OTAMAJAKUSHI

Glasses Weapon
Wrapped Animal

A remote glasses weapon

A KNIGHT'S CODE...



①	D	E	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	E
②	O	F	F	S	E	A	S	O	N	
③	S	Y	M	P	A	T	H	Y		
④	I	L	L	I	C	I	T			
⑤	R	E	V	E	R	B				
⑥	E	N	N	U	I					
⑦	L	U	C	K						
⑧	G	U	N							
⑨	H	I								
⑩	K									

Across Clues

① A(n) PERSON without MORALS — DEGENERATE
② TIME you like for RELAXING — OFFSEASON
③ Likes FEELING PITY — SYMPATHY
④ Another word for ILLEGAL — ILLICIT
⑤ ECHO in MUSIC — REVERB
⑥ LAZINESS does this — ENNUI
⑦ A(n) FORCE of FORTUNE — LUCK
⑧ Use this to KILL — GUN
⑨ The OPPOSITE of BYE — HI
⑩ Another word for KILOMETER — K

Down Clues

☆ What is your name? ASHIBI

OUR D GROUP HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUBROOM, THE SCENE OF THE MURDER.

SINCE IT WOULD BE TOO AWKWARD TO IMITATE EACH OTHER WHILE IN CLASS (?)...

...EACH GROUP MARCHED OUT TO THE BATTLE-FIELD.

TEN DIFFERENT DYING MESSAGES WERE FOUND AROUND THE CORPSE.

OUR FICTIONAL CLASSMATE, WAON WASUREN-AGUSA...

...WAS MURDERED INSIDE A LOCKED DARKROOM WHILE SEARCHING FOR THE SPY.

KARIGANE-SAN!

YOU READ DETECTIVE BOOKS?

DID SHE SAY "MORG"?

"THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE," THE WORLD'S FIRST DETECTIVE STORY, WAS ALSO THE WORLD'S FIRST LOCKED-ROOM MURDER MYSTERY, WASN'T IT?

IF I WERE DR. FELL, I GUESS THIS IS THE POINT WHERE I'D START MY LECTURE ON LOCKED ROOMS.

Iroha Irohazaka
playing
Soboro Oboro
(Key witness)

Kakune Karigane
playing
Harukiri Botayama
(A friend of the victim)

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Dr. Fell's "Locked-Room Lecture" was featured in *The Three Coffins* by John Dickson Carr. It may seem like a very serious discussion based on the title, but if you read it, you'll find it to be an enjoyable exploration of what we now call meta content. It's generally accepted that "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" is the world's first detective story, but there exist other novel theories on what "the world's first" really means. See what I did there?

AH... SHE'S REALLY INTO THIS STUFF.

IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT CODES, YOU CAN'T LEAVE OUT POE.

OH, BUT THE EXISTENCE OF THE DARKROOM ALSO REMINDS ME OF RANPO'S *DAIANSHITSU* (THE DARKROOM).

I WONDER IF BOTAN-CHAN'S READ "THE GOLD BUG"...

YEAH! THE BEST LOCKED-ROOM MYSTERY BOOK OF ALL TIME IS *NANAMEYASHIKI NO HANZAI* (THE CRIME AT DIAGONAL MANSION).

AND SINCE THERE SEEMS TO BE AN EMPHASIS ON DYING MESSAGES, MAYBE THEY'VE TAKEN SOME INSPIRATION FROM ELLERY QUEEN.

PERSONALLY THOUGH, I THINK THEY SHOULD KEEP MYSTERIES AND PUZZLERS SEPARATE.

IT'S TIME TO HAND OUT THE DYING-MESSAGE CODE CARDS!

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE, CHECK IT OUT!

TAKE A SEAT ONCE YOU'RE FINISHED CHANGING!

Shitsuke Koshibai
playing
Tayu Yugata
(Chief investigator)

カサ RATTLE

WE CAN'T MESS UP THE PHOTO CLUBROOM ANY MORE THAN WE ALREADY HAVE.

HYA HA HA! ARE YOU MORE OF THE PERFORMANCE TYPE, OTAMA-CHAN?

I'm more into board games, so I don't mind!

カサ RATTLE

CARDS, HUH? HOW VERY GAME-ESQUE...

GUESS THIS IS THE LIMIT WHEN YOU GO WITH THIS KIND OF PACKAGE.

Otamajakushi Mamushihishimeki
playing
Shokuho Yorokawa
(The first to find the body)

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Nanameyashiki no Hanzai (The Crime at Diagonal Mansion) is an early masterpiece in the Kiyoshi Mitarai series by Soji Shimada. Ellery Queen, the American writing duo, is seen as the creator of the dying-message trope and the one who made it popular to challenge readers. Poe, the author who created the code and locked-room tropes, also wrote horror stories. Iroha's probably only read "The Black Cat." The reason *Daianshitsu* (The Darkroom) suddenly comes up is because Edogawa Ranpo's name was based on Edgar Allan Poe.

CHOOSE WHATEVER WILL EQUAL FIVE STARS!

EVERYONE'S ALLOWED TO TAKE FIVE STARS' WORTH OF TOKENS!

BAP BAP BAP

!!

Ashibi Mokumokuren
playing
Shutan Nutaba
(Informant)

BUT IF THERE ARE TEN, SHOULDN'T WE JUST EACH TAKE TWO?

TOKENS ...?

AS THE ONE WHO LINED UP THE CARDS, I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE A MOVE LIKE THAT...

I FIGURED THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

...TO PICK UP THE ZERO-STAR CARDS. THEY COULD BE TRAPS.

AND I'D BE FAR TOO SCARED ...

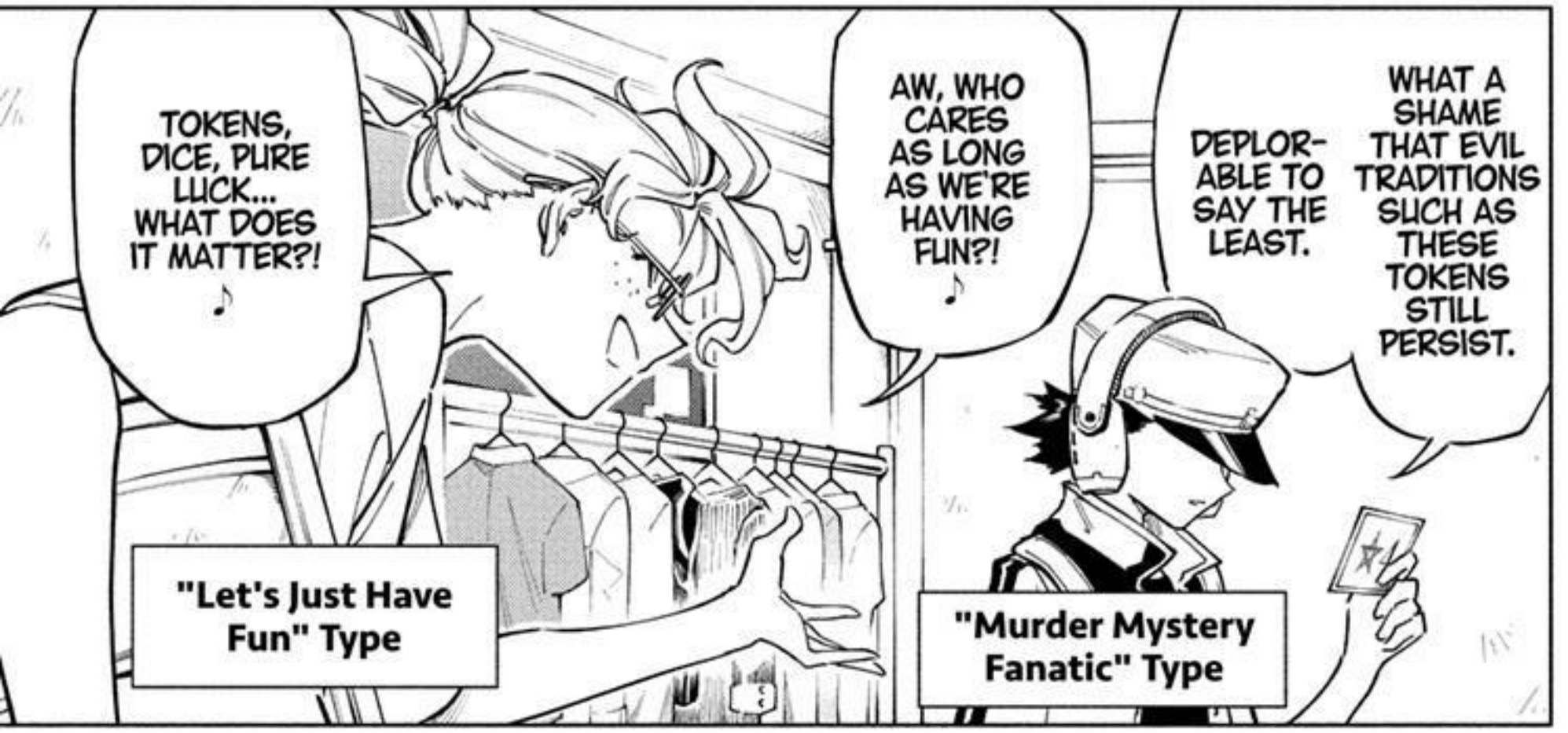
IF I LET SOMEONE TAKE FOUR FOR THEMSELVES ALL AT ONCE—

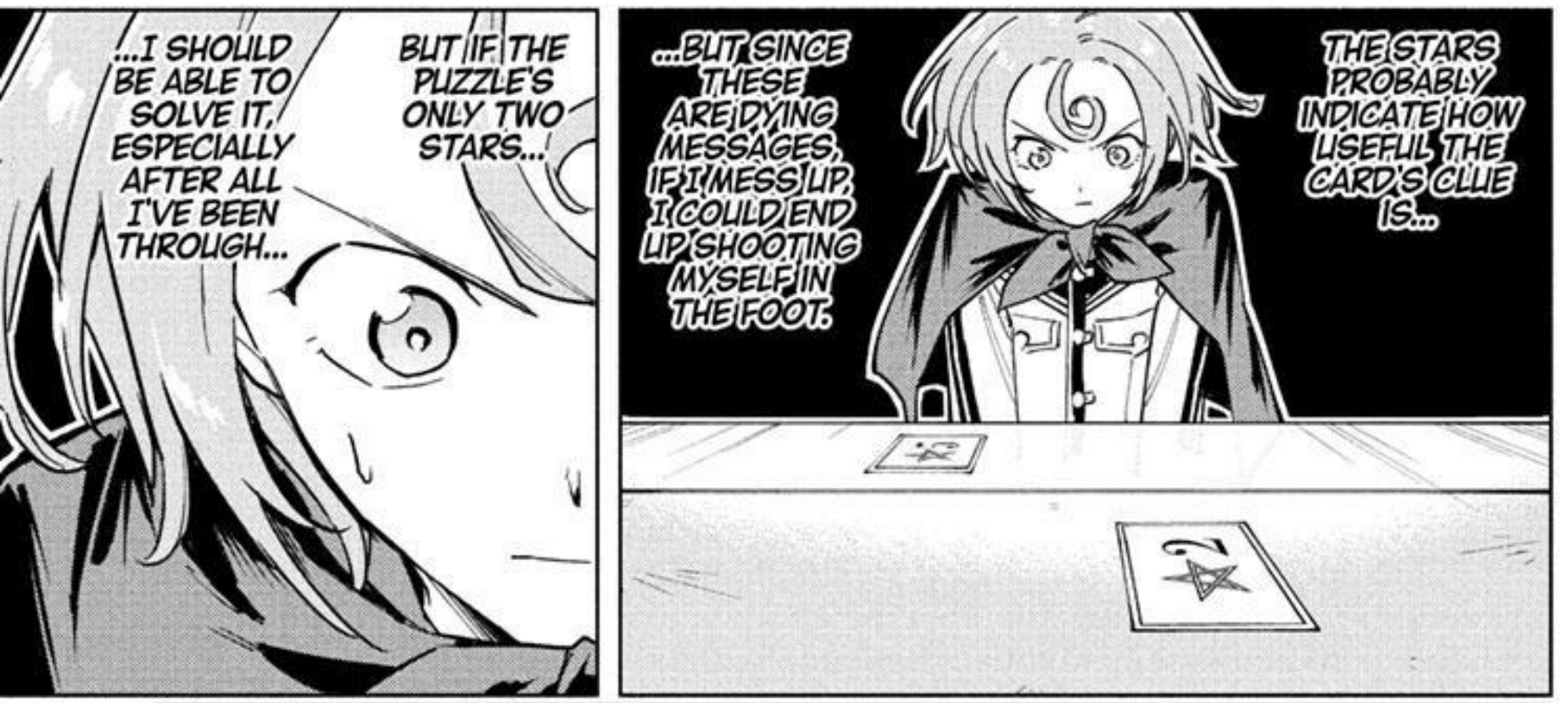
THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT BY "FIVE STARS' WORTH?!

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

If you were to hand out all ten of the five-star cards evenly, it would go 5–0, 4–1 (x2), 3–2 (x2). But of course, there's no rule stating they have to be passed out that way. While she's playing the chief inspector, Koshibai isn't necessarily the game master... Yet she still chose to let her teammates take the initiative. Similar to Iroha, she plays fair in her own way.







Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

I was curious to see how Otamajakushi Mamushihishimeki's crossword would end up... And sure enough, she ended up solving it in a very tricky manner by splitting up her first and last name. [Editor's note: In our version, we split up "Otamajakushi."] What could Ashibi Mokumokuren's "Ikezukuri Ningen" (original answer in Japanese that means "humans served live") mean, though? The way people look when dredging? (Observing Compliance)

NOD

OBORO-SAN WOULD PICK THIS ONE!

FWIP

BUT!

...IT'S BEEN VARIABLE IN TERMS OF DIFFICULTY!

IT'LL BE FINE! EVEN AMONG THE FIVE-STAR PUZZLES...

IT'S ONE OF THOSE YOU CAN ONLY SOLVE BY HAVING A EUREKA MOMENT?...

THIS IS BAD... IT'S ONE OF THE REALLY HARD ONES!

NOT MY PROB-LEM.

THINGS WEREN'T SUP-POSED TO GO THIS WAY, OBORO-SAN!

Q.21

Difficulty: ★-★-★-★-★

WELL, THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE!

SATisKtoXL

EVERYONE THINKS THE SPY IS THE KILLER...

...AND I, AS THE SPY, AM THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THAT ISN'T TRUE.

...I NEED TO ORGANIZE THE VICTORY AND DEFEAT CONDI-TIONS.

Soboro Oboro

Public Information

Attendance Number - 3
Personal Pronoun - Watashi
Birthday - September 26
Catchphrase - Cipher murder.
Favorite Food - Chiraga (stewed pork face skin)
Don't Mention This - Joining the dark side
Morg - 170,000,000

Private Information

The truth is...I'm the spy. But I'm not the one who killed Waon Wasurenagusa. My goal is to find out who killed her and frame them for being the spy as well. No mistakes will be permitted, and I also lose if anyone else dies.

Not-Yet-Public Information

Ex-CONVICT

I spent a year in prison for a crime I didn't commit. That's where I got the eye mark on my forehead. I escaped after figuring out the code number for my cell. I entered Cipher Academy to evade my pursuers and to get revenge on the people in power who pushed false charges on me.

Crafty Information

Colored Glasses
I can decipher any encoded cards related to color during the deciphering phase.

Four-Color Problem
Can be used only once during the inference phase. The target must correctly answer my multiple-choice question with four possible answers.

Resistance to Torture
I can evade interrogations from other soldiers by either lying or staying silent.

DON'T WORRY. STAY CALM.

FIRST...

Victory Conditions

Discovered the true killer and framed someone else for being the spy — 100 points
Failed to find the true killer, but kept everyone from discovering the true spy — 50 points
Chose the wrong person as the killer, but kept everyone from discovering the true spy — 0 points

Defeat Conditions

People found out who the true spy was — -100 points
Also got blamed for the murder — -200 points
Someone else died — -50 points

LIKE THIS?

THAT'S WHY SOME-ONE'S TRYING TO...

...FRAME THE SPY FOR THE MURDER!

OH NO, WAIT! THE KILLER KNOWS THIS TOO!

OKAY, TO SLIM THINGS UP...

BUT...

...EVERYONE ELSE PROBABLY HAS SIMILAR SKILLS...

I'LL NEED THESE SKILLS TO ACHIEVE MY GOALS.




HM?
WHAT'S UP, IROHAZAKA-CHAN?


?!
RATTLE
ガタッ!!

NO, THERE'S NO WAY...

IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE TO MAKE YOURSELF LOOK THAT MUCH LIKE SOMEONE ELSE DURING A MURDER-MYSTERY GAME?

FWAP

IT LOOKED LIKE YUGATA-SAN WAS SITTING THERE...

NO WAY... JUST NOW...

IT'S NOTH-ING...

N-NO.

OKAY, EVERY-ONE...

IT'S TIME FOR THE SUPER-FUN INFERENCE PHASE!

...BECOME YUGATA-SAN IN TERMS OF SKILL...

BUT IF KOSHIBAI-SAN WAS ALSO ABLE TO...

IN TERMS OF COSPLAY, SHE'S PUT THE LEAST AMOUNT OF EFFORT IN...

ALL SHE'S DONE IS PUT HER HAIR INTO A PONY-TAIL...

"I DECODED THAT THE KILLER'S SEAT NUMBER IS A SINGLE DIGIT!"

"WELL, I WANT A GUARANTEE THAT YOU DECODED IT CORRECTLY!"

COMPLIANCE VIOLATION

"ER, I MEAN, MY ANSWER ABOUT THE MURDER WEAPON BEING ONE OF KICK-ATTACK PLANNING'S NEW WEAPONS IS CORRECT, RIGHT?"

"ACTIVATE SKILL: LEFTOVER CLEANUP."

"I'M TAKING ALL THE LEFTOVER TWO-STAR CARDS."

"THE SPY WAS WEARING A PIG MASK."

"I'M TOSSING BOTAYAMA'S SKILL TO NUTABA."

"ACTIVATE SKILL: UNSETTING SUN."

"I READ THAT THE VICTIM FOUGHT BACK BEFORE SHE DIED AND INJURED THE KILLER'S LEFT EYE."

"WELL, OF COURSE WE FIGHT SOMETIMES. WE'RE BEST FRIENDS."

"WAS THE ROOM REALLY LOCKED?"

"SHUTAN'S SKILL: MEMORY LOSS!"

"I FORGOT EVERYTHING!"

"MY MORG IS A DEBT-RELATED THING FROM NOHIME-SAN."

"I HEARD THE SPY'S GOT A TON OF MORG!"

"ACTIVATE SKILL: ODYSSEY EYE!"

"I'M GOING TO LOOK AT ONE OF YUGATA-SAN'S CODE CARDS!"

"SEEMS LIKE THE VICTIM DREW PIGTAILS WITH HER OWN BLOOD BEFORE SHE DIED."

"SEEMS LIKE WAON WAS LOOKING INTO OBORO'S BACKGROUND."

"HEY, BOTAYAMA! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WASURENAGUSA'S BEST FRIEND, RIGHT? DID YOU HEAR ANYTHING?"

"WHY DID YOU GO INTO THE DARKROOM?"

"CAN'T TELL YOU THAT. CAN'T TELL YOU WHERE I GOT THE INFO, EITHER."

"WHAT SORT OF INFORMATION WERE YOU SUPPLYING WASURENAGUSA-SAN, MS. INFORMANT?"

"WHO HAD A COPY OF THE KEY?"

"FIRST THINGS FIRST, WHY IS THE TOSHUSAI GROUP TAKING CHARGE HERE?"

"THE SPY'S CODE NAME IS EITHER TEMPURA OR TENBIN (SCALES)."

"I SAW YOU AND WASURENAGUSA-SAN HAVING A VIOLENT ARGUMENT IN THE HALLWAY."

WHAT HAVE THESE PEOPLE ALL BEEN DOING UP UNTIL NOW?!

IT ISN'T JUST KOSHIBAI-SAN... EVERYONE ELSE IS ALSO REALLY ADVANCED!

TOO MUCH INFORMA-TION!!

"YOU'RE ALL SO THOUGHT-LESS"...

NO, YOU'RE MISUNDER-STANDING... ER, I MEAN...

WHOA WHOA WHOA WHOA WHOA WHOA! TOO MUCH TOO MUCH TOO MUCH TOO MUCH TOO MUCH TOO MUCH TOO TOO TOO TOO TOO TOO TOO TOO...

...I'D RATHER DIE. IT'LL BE LIKE GOING THROUGH THAT TRAUMA ALL OVER AGAIN!

AT THIS RATE, I'M GOING TO END UP FEELING LIKE...

I WANT TO HAVE A SECRET MEETING WITH YOU!

MOKU-MOKU... NO, I MEAN...

NUTABA!

SECRET MEETINGS...

...ARE A FEATURE IN MURDER-MYSTERY GAMES...

...THAT ALLOW SPECIFIC PLAYERS TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE DISCUSSION TABLE AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION IN SECRET WITH ONE ANOTHER.

NO.

IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A SIMPLE CARD EXCHANGE BASED ON THE NUMBER OF CARDS RATHER THAN THE NUMBER OF STARS, I'M FINE WITH IT.

SHOW ME YOUR FIVE-STAR CARD, AND I'LL SHOW YOU MY ZERO-STAR CARD.

SORRY, IROHA-ZAKA...

I'M FINE WITH IT PERSONALLY, BUT NUTABA IS SAYING NO.

NO!

THAT'S PROBABLY THE REAL YOU SPEAKING!

SHE'S REALLY TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ME HERE!

SHE'S PROBABLY ALSO FIGURED OUT THAT I HAVEN'T BROKEN THE CODE YET!

A ZERO-STAR CARD!

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

It seems like Iroha wanted to reveal his five-star code card in exchange for getting to see all of Mokumokuren's code cards, so they're both being cheeky here.

Q.22

Difficulty : — — — — —

AN OVEREXPOSED PHOTO?

HUH? WHAT'S THIS?

BUT IN TERMS OF THE FIVE STAR ONE...

SHE PROBABLY WOULDN'T TELL ME THE ANSWER EVEN IF SHE'D FIGURED IT OUT.

DOES MOKUMOKUREN-SAN KNOW HOW TO SOLVE STUFF LIKE THIS?

THIS IS ZERO STARS?

SHE'S SURPRISINGLY EASY TO READ!

WOW!

?!

5

MY EYES FLIT AROUND, AND I LOSE SIGHT OF WHO I'M SUPPOSED TO STAY FOCUSED ON...

IT'S NOT JUST FOUR... I HAVE TO DEAL WITH EIGHT DIFFERENT PEOPLE AT ONCE!

HONESTLY, THOUGH, I'D REALLY RATHER NOT EXPOSE MYSELF TO ANOTHER FLOOD OF DATA AGAIN...

OH NO, I NEED TO GET BACK TOO...

I'VE BEEN REALLY TRAUMA-TIZED...

YUGATA-SAN...

WAS SHE UNABLE TO SOLVE IT?

...I GOT RID OF THE LIGHT?

WHAT IF...

SAI LIGI

...I'VE BEEN SO FOCUSED ON LOOKING AT THINGS.

UP UNTIL NOW...

...

KLIK

LIKE THIS.

...AS IF THE POWER WENT OUT.

"I DECODED THAT THE KILLER'S BEAT NUMBER IS A SINGLE DIGIT!"

"WELL, I WANT A GUARANTEE THAT YOU DECODED IT CORRECTLY!"

COMPLIANCE VIOLATION

"ER, I MEAN, MY ANSWER ABOUT THE MURDER WEAPON BEING ONE OF KICK-ATTACK PLANNING'S NEW WEAPONS IS CORRECT, RIGHT?"

"ACTIVATE SKILL: LEFTOVER CLEANUP."

"I'M TAKING ALL THE LEFTOVER TWO-STAR CARDS."

"THE SPY WAS WEARING A PIG MASK."

"I HEARD THE SPY'S GOT A TON OF WORK!"

"HEY, BOTANYAMA! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WASURENAGUSA'S BEST FRIEND, RIGHT? DID YOU HEAR ANYTHING?"

"ACTIVATE SKILL: ODYSSEY EYE!"

"I'M GOING TO LOOK AT ONE OF YUGATA-SAN'S CODE CARDS!"

"WHY DID YOU GO INTO THE DARKROOM?"

"FIRST THINGS FIRST, WHY IS THE TOGAKUSA GROUP TAKIN CHARGE HERE?"

"I'M TOSSING BOTANYAMA'S SKILL TO NUTABA."

"ACTIVATE SKILL: UNSETTING GUN."

"I READ THAT THE VICTIM FOUGHT BACK BEFORE SHE DIED AND INJURED THE KILLER'S LEFT EYE."

"WHAT SORT OF INFORMATION WERE YOU SUPPLYING WASURENAGUSA-SAN, MS. INFORMANT?"

"CAN'T TELL YOU THAT. CAN'T TELL YOU WHERE I GOT THE INFO, EITHER."

"THE SPY'S CODE NAME IS EITHER TEMPURA OR TENSHI (SCALES)."

"WAS THE ROOM REALLY LOCKED?"

"GAUTAN'S SKILL: MEMORY LOSS!"

"I FORGOT EVERYTHING!"

"MY WORD IS A DEBT-RELATED THING FROM NOMIMI-SAN."

"WELL, OF COURSE WE FIGHT SOMETIMES. WE'RE BEST FRIENDS."

"SEEMS LIKE THE VICTIM DREW PICTURES WITH HER OWN BLOOD BEFORE SHE DIED."

"SEEMS LIKE WAON WAS LOOKING INTO OBORO'S BACKGROUND."

"WHO HAD A COPY OF THE KEY?"

"I SAW YOU AND WASURENAGUSA-SAN HAVING A VIOLENT ARGUMENT IN THE HALLWAY."

I'LL VISUALIZE THE WORDS IN MY MIND...

...AND WHO SAID WHAT.

FOR NOW, I'LL JUST FORGET ABOUT CONSISTENCY, CONNECTION...

...AND CONCENTRATE ON ONLY THAT WHICH I CAN STILL SEE.

INSTEAD OF FOCUSING MY EYES, I'LL CLOSE THEM...

I SEE IT NOW.

THE KILLER IS SHOKUHO YOROKAWA...

...PLAYED BY OTAMAJAKUSHI MAMUSHI-HISHIMEKI.

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

"OKAY. THEN IF YOU END UP BEING THE KILLER..."

"...FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, YOU'LL BE MY MAN-SERVANT."

Chapter 16: DECODING THE KING AND THE ROOK AT THE SAME TIME

Group C Battlefield (Home Ec Room)

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro


Group B Battlefield (P.E. Storage Room)


Group A Battlefield (Broadcasting Room)

...THIS WAS A DETECTIVE STORY THERE'D BE A HAPPY ENDING.

IF...

...PLAYED BY OTAMA-JAKUSHI MAMUSHI-HISHIMEKI.

THE KILLER IS SHOKUHO YOROKAWA...

Group D Battlefield (Photography Club Room)

...BUT BY A MAJORITY VOTE.

BUT THIS IS A MURDER-MYSTERY GAME WHERE THE KILLER'S IDENTITY IS REVEALED NOT BY A DETECTIVE...

...EVERYONE THAT THE SPY (ME) IS THE KILLER.

RIGHT NOW, MAMUSHIHISHIMEKI-SAN IS PROBABLY TRYING TO ARTFULLY CONVINCE...

SLANDER

DEMA-GOGUERY

EXPANDING PET THEORIES

SPREADING RUMORS

NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN

ROLEWISE, OBORO-SAN ISN'T REALLY THE TYPE TO VINDICATE HERSELF.

I NEED TO HURRY BACK AND TAKE PART IN THE DISCUSSION, OR ELSE..!

SHE'S THE TYPE TO NEVER MAKE EXCUSES.

WHICH MEANS...

...THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR ME RIGHT NOW IS FIGURING OUT HOW BEST TO USE THESE SKILLS.

Crafty Information

Colored Glasses
I can decipher any encoded cards related to color during the deciphering phase.

Four-Color Problem
Can be used only once during the inference phase. The target must correctly answer my multiple-choice question with four possible answers.

Resistance to Torture
I can evade interrogations from other soldiers by either lying or remaining silent.

I'M A BIT HESITANT TO USE MY SKILL ON A ZERO-STAR CODE.

MAYBE I CAN USE THIS TO DECODE THE PITCH-BLACK PHOTO? STILL...

WAIT, BUT THE MOMENT I DO, THEY'LL FIGURE OUT I'M LYING.

...BUT MAYBE I CAN USE THIS IF SOMEONE ASKS ME WHETHER I'M THE SPY?

IF IT'S A MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTION WITH FOUR POSSIBLE ANSWERS, THEN I CAN'T ASK HER WHETHER SHE'S THE KILLER...

SHOULD I TRY TO CORNER HER WITH THIS SKILL? WAIT...

Colored Glasses
I can decipher any encoded cards related to color during the deciphering phase.

Four-Color Problem
Can be used only once during the inference phase. The target must correctly answer my multiple-choice question with four possible answers.

Resistance to Torture
I can evade interrogations from other soldiers by either lying or remaining silent.

LIKE MORSE CODE...

...AND THE ALPHABET WAS CONNECTED BY DOTS AND LINES LIKE THIS...

UM, I'M PRETTY SURE IT WAS "SAT IS K TO XL"...

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I NEED TO WRITE DOWN THAT FIVE-STAR CODE...

...WHILE I STILL REMEMBER IT.

...I INVERTED IT, LIKE INVERTING THE COLOR OF A NEGATIVE?!

WHAT IF...

MORSE CODE?!

!!

LIKE THIS!

SAT IS K TO XL

ONE MORE SPY

NO...

DOES THAT CONFUSED LOOK MEAN THAT MOKUMOKUREN-SAN IS THE OTHER SPY?!

?!

ONE MORE SPY... THERE'S ANOTHER SPY IN THE GAME?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Normally, I'd feature a Morse code table here, but Iroha's already memorized it. There are several different ways to invert the above code (just read it backward for a simple example), but perhaps he realized this was the only pattern where it could be read as a sentence. It seems like the fact that it was written on the back of a photograph led him to his eureka moment... Does that mean he also understands how photo film works?

KLIK

HEEEY! GOT A MINUTE, IROHAZAKA-CHAN?

WE'D LIKE TO HAVE PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH YOU TOO, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

...

LEARNING MORE ABOUT ME IN SECRET, OR LEARNING THE SECRET TO THIS LOCKED-ROOM MYSTERY...

WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER?

~~Key Witness~~
Master Detective

DARK-ROOM

入室 OK

Informant

Friend of the Victim

First to Find the Body

Chief Investigator

"...WERE THESE EIGHT QUOTES!"

"I DECODED THAT THE KILLER'S SEAT NUMBER IS A SINGLE DIGIT!"

"ER, I MEAN, MY ANSWER ABOUT THE MURDER WEAPON BEING ONE OF KICK-ATTACK PLANNING'S NEW WEAPONS IS CORRECT, RIGHT?"

"THE SPY WAS WEARING A PIG MASK."

"I HEARD THE SPY'S GOT A TON OF MORG!"

"THE SPY'S CODE NAME IS EITHER TEMPURA OR TENBIN (SCALES)."

"I READ THAT THE VICTIM FOUGHT BACK BEFORE SHE DIED AND INJURED THE KILLER'S LEFT EYE."

"SEEMS LIKE THE VICTIM DREW PIGTAILS WITH HER OWN BLOOD BEFORE SHE DIED."

"SEEMS LIKE WAON WAS LOOKING INTO OBORO'S BACKGROUND."

"A MYRIAD OF DATA POINTS FLEW THROUGH THIS ROOM DURING THE DISCUSSION..."

"...BUT THE ONES THAT PARTICULARLY STOOD OUT TO SOBORO OBORO..."

"VERY ASTUTE, YUGATA."

"ALLOW ME TO SUMMARIZE."

"YOU ONLY PICKED EYEWITNESS TESTIMONIES YOU THOUGHT COULD HAVE BEEN GAINED FROM DECODING ONE OF THE DYING MESSAGES..."

"... CORRECT?"

"MEANING..."

"...NOT SECONDARY INFORMATION, HEARSAY, AND GUESSES."

I READ THAT THE VICTIM FOUGHT BACK BEFORE SHE DIED AND INJURED THE KILLER'S LEFT EYE.

ER, I MEAN MY ANSWER ABOUT THE MURDER WEAPON BEING ONE OF KICK-ATTACK PLANNING'S NEW WEAPONS IS CORRECT, RIGHT?

I DECODED THAT THE KILLER'S SEAT NUMBER IS A SINGLE DIGIT!

SEEMS LIKE THE VICTIM DREW PIGTAILS WITH HER OWN BLOOD BEFORE SHE DIED.

☆4 ☆4

☆3 ☆3

☆2 ☆2

☆1 ☆1

THE SPY WAS WEARING A PIG MASK.

THE SPY'S CODE NAME IS EITHER TEMPURA OR TENBIN (SCALES).

SEEMS LIKE WAON WAS LOOKING INTO OBORO'S BACKGROUND.

I HEARD THE SPY'S GOT A TON OF MORG!

"ONLY ONE PERSON, THE KILLER..."

"LOOKING AT IT THIS WAY..."

"...SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR, RIGHT?"

SINCE OBORO-SAN'S A WOMAN OF FEW WORDS, THEY SHOULD GET THE POINT.

I WON'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT THE FIVE-STAR AND ZERO-STAR HINTS...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

His hypothesis as to which player pulled which code cards is still merely a hypothesis and could change later. Of course, the information could also be coming from the secret information listed on character sheets, or even a different source (the eyewitness testimony itself could be a lie). But that's still no reason for him not to go with this hypothesis, especially since it's advantageous to him. Incidentally, Shokuho Yorokawa started off with one four-star card at the beginning, then gained a two-star card during the game.

!!

"...WASN'T MENTIONED IN ANY OF WAON WASURE-NAGASA'S DYING MESSAGES!"

"SO WHAT, YOU JERK?!"

"THAT SHOULD MEAN THAT I'M NOT THE KILLER!"

"You wanna take this outside?!"

"I'M SURPRISED YOU HAD THE NERVE TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT."

"IF I WERE THE KILLER, YOU'D BE DEAD RIGHT NOW."

"DYING MESSAGES..."

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Out of the eight code cards that were passed out, the four on the left contain information regarding the killer. "Injured the killer's left eye" is referring to Nutaba's eye patch, while "one of Kick-Attack Planning's new weapons" is referring to Yugata from Toshusai's group. "The killer's seat number is a single digit" is referring to Oboro, sits in seat 3, and "pigtails" is obviously Botayama. The four cards on the right all incriminate Soboro Oboro as the spy. The two-star card obviously does that, while the four-star card's "pig mask" refers to the fact that her favorite food is chigara. The three-star card mentions "tempura or tenbin (scales)" since she's a Libra (born on September 26). The one-star card's claim about her having a ton of morg is also correct, since she currently holds 170 million. None of the cards mention anything about Yorokawa (Mamushihishimeki).

"...CAN EASILY BE FABRICATED!"

"ESPECIALLY BY YOU, SINCE YOU WERE THE FIRST TO FIND THE BODY!"

OH, I GET IT! THE FACT THAT IT HAPPENED IN A LOCKED ROOM COULD HAVE ALL BEEN MADE UP TOO!

THE ONLY REASON TO MAKE THE MURDER SEEM LIKE IT HAPPENED IN A LOCKED ROOM WITHOUT MAKING IT LOOK LIKE A SUICIDE...

...WOULD BE TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM SUSPECTING THE FIRST PERSON TO FIND THE BODY OF ANY FOUL PLAY!

IN OTHER WORDS, IT WAS A FAKE LOCKED ROOM MADE UP TO AVOID SUSPICION!

THANK YOU, MURDER-GAME FANATIC!

YOU'RE JUST BEING YOUR-SELF NOW, KARIGANE-SAN...

"LOOKING AT IT FROM ANOTHER ANGLE, THE FIRST TO FIND THE BODY IS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HAVE FABRICATED THE DATA."

"MEANING..."

I SEE... TRULY A FITTING TWIST FOR "THE MURDER AT CIPHER ACADEMY."

THE INFORMATION ON THE DATA CARDS IS FAKE...?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Breaking the code and deciding on whether or not your interpretation is right or wrong is important, but it's also vital to verify whether the encrypted data itself is right or wrong. In other words, true or false. When you actually use your brain to decode things, the veracity of the data you gain should become apparent... And that's the theme of group D's military game. (I, the game designer, wasn't simply being a jerk.)

"EVEN IF I DID TAMPER WITH THE CODES, THAT STILL DOESN'T PROVE I'M THE KILLER!"

"LET ALONE THE FRIGGIN' SPY!"

Just shut up and go write a detective novel or something!

RATTLE

"W-WAIT!"

"DAMMIT!"

"SHOKUHO YOROKAWA, YOU'RE THE ONLY SPY WHO COULD HAVE KILLED..."

"...WASURE-NAGUSA."

...AND THEN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF IT AND TAMPERED WITH FOUR CODES.

YOROKAWA-SAN DISCOVERED THAT...

THE CODE CARDS RELATED TO THE SPY, INCLUDING THE FIVE STARS, AREN'T REALLY DYING MESSAGES. THEY'RE MORE LIKE FRAGMENTS OF A PROGRESS REPORT ON WASURENAGUSA-SAN'S SEARCH FOR THE SPY.

EXACTLY... BUT THE KILLER PROBABLY ONLY TAMPERED WITH THE CLUES THAT WERE RELATED TO THE MURDER ITSELF.

YORO-KAWA-SAN MUST HAVE A REALLY BAD IMAGE...

WHICH MEANS THAT IT'S BETTER LEFT UNENCRYPTED, IN ORDER TO KEEP SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES IN THE AIR...

"THERE IS INDEED A POSSI-BILITY..."

"...THAT THIS UN-ENCRYPTED CODE IS A DYING MESSAGE THAT POINTS TO YOU."

"THERE-FORE, I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU, YORO."

IT'S THE ONLY ACTUAL DYING MESSAGE THAT WAON WASURENAGUSA, OUR 20TH CLASSMATE, LEFT...

...BUT THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE ONE TRUE DYING MESSAGE, CONSIDERING HOW IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO FIGURE OUT WHO THE KILLER WAS INSIDE A DARKROOM.

THIS CARD SEEMED LIKE A TRAP, SO MOKUMOKUREN-SAN WAS SMART TO PUSH IT ON TO ME...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

It's a very minute rule, but if Iroha uses his colored-glasses skill on the code card, other players will know (since you need to declare that you're using it at the table), which would make them think, "What? You used a decryption skill on a zero-star card?" From Mokumokuren's perspective, since the data had already been revealed, she could have been fine exchanging cards, so she most likely said what she did in order to make sure Iroha took the zero-star card.

① ARE YOU BOTH THE SPY AND THE KILLER?

② ARE YOU THE KILLER BUT NOT THE SPY?

③ ARE YOU THE SPY BUT NOT THE KILLER?

④ ARE YOU NEITHER THE KILLER NOR THE SPY?

"FORCED QUESTION!"

"SKILL: FOUR-COLOR PROBLEM!"

...AND MAKE PEOPLE THINK YOU'RE THE SPY!

Victory Condition

Discover the true killer and frame someone else for being the spy.

"...TO YOUR QUESTION."

"SKILL: IGNORING ORDERS."

"SORRY, I WASN'T LISTENING..."

"GAH..."

...AND EVEN IF YOU REFRAIN FROM DENYING THE SPY ACCUSATION!

EVEN IF PEOPLE NOTICE THE LIE THE MOMENT YOU USE THE SKILL...

...THEN YOU'LL BE FORCED TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE FIRST COUPLE OF QUESTIONS.

THAT'S RIGHT. IF YOU'RE THE KILLER...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

In other words, figuring out how to force your opponents to use their skills is more important than figuring out how best to use your own. Of course, you can also choose to use them in order to hide things and force other people to make mistakes. Either way, Iroha's multiple-choice question only had two real answers, and he succeeded in pushing the "spy" label onto his opponent.

"...NUTA'S FIVE-STAR CODE."

"...DO WE NEED TO SOLVE..."

"HMPH. NOW WE NO LONGER HAVE ANY REASON TO TAKE A VOTE, DO WE?"

"NOR..."

NOW WE'VE REACHED THE REAL CLIMAX TO A GOOD MURDER MYSTERY!

YOU DON'T WANT ME TO BREAK THE CODE...

WHICH MEANS YOUR PANICKING HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR PRIVATE INFORMATION, DOESN'T IT, "NUTABA-SAN"?

"ONE MORE SPY."

THAT DATA CREATES MORE SUSPECTS, SO IT SHOULDN'T GIVE THE SPY ANY REASON TO PANIC... JUST LIKE I DIDN'T.

SAT is K to XL

...THE DECEASED WAON WASURENAGUSA WAS ALSO A SPY.

1

2

3

4

5

6

THE CODE THAT WOULD PROVE...

Victory Condition
Find the other spy and blame them for the murder.

Defeat Condition
Revealed as the killer and framed as the spy as well.

I CAN'T BELIEVE MYSELF. I WAS HAVING TOO MUCH FUN PLAYING THE VILLAIN...

I'LL KEEP DOING WHAT I HAVE TO DO UNTIL THE END THOUGH.

Private Information
Murdered Wasurenagusa after being unable to forgive her for being a spy.

"NO, WE'RE GOING TO DO A PROPER VOTE. I'M PART OF THE TOSHUSAI GROUP, REMEMBER."

Private Information
As part of Toshusai's group, you want to use this as a chance to get rid of Yorokawa, who's part of Nohime's group.

IT'S A BIT OF AN UNFAIR TRICK, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE MY CHARACTER'S VOTE IS PRETTY MUCH LOCKED IN PLACE.

"I WONDER WHO THE KILLER WAS?"

OH WELL, IT WAS STILL FUN, SO WHO CARES?!

WE HAVEN'T REALLY FIGURED ANYTHING OUT REGARDING THE SPY THOUGH...

Victory Condition
Make it seem like Yorokawa was the killer. If the spy does happen to be someone else, bring them to light as well.

Defeat Condition
People find out about your evil plan.

I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS, BUT I'LL JUST HAVE TO AGREE WITH IROHAZAKA IN ORDER TO AVOID ACTIVATING MY DEFEAT CONDITION...

PASSING OVER THE ZERO STAR CARD WAS MY **COMPLIANCE VIOLATION**

ICE

Victory Condition
Keep people from solving the case. (Don't let anyone find out about your mistake.)

Defeat Condition
People find out what Wasurenagusa really was (which means they'll also find out about your mistake).

THERE'S NO WAY FOR ME TO WIN NOW...

Private Information
You're acting like you're helping to look for the spy, but you were the informant who was passing data to Wasurenagusa, the real spy.

COLD

THAT'S ALL I CAN DO, RIGHT, KOGOE...?

I DEFINITELY CAN'T WIN NOW.

I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO MY BEST REGARDLESS.

Private Information
You always wanted to kill your exceptionally talented friend Wasurenagusa, so you feel very indebted to the killer.

Victory Condition
Frame someone else for the murder.

Defeat Condition
The real murderer gets arrested.

READING!!



Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

In a regular game, everyone would reveal their hypotheses at this point, then everyone's individual victory or loss would be determined (calculated), and the ending would play out... But that would take too long, so we'll reveal the scenario through text! Normally, I'd say, "You don't need to read this part if you don't want to," but I stayed up all night working hard to come up with this game, so I really want you to read it. Just so you know, I didn't make this explanation take up more than half the page as a joke. I promise, it isn't a joke, okay?!

Waon Wasurenagusa, the one tasked with the secret mission to find the spy, was actually a spy who had infiltrated Cipher Academy. She was simply gathering data while pretending to look for the spy. That's when she noticed another spy from a different organization had also infiltrated the academy ("one more spy"). Instead of reporting back to someone, she used that spy as a cover for her own operations. Her plan to use Shutan Nutaba, her informant, to gather even more data was then discovered by Shokuho Yorokawa, a student with a strong sense of justice, who murdered the poor girl. Yorokawa hadn't meant to actually kill her, so she panicked and decided to fabricate several dying messages. She also tried to make it seem like the murder had happened in a locked room in order to dodge any suspicion, making it so that anyone would think the killer was the "other spy."

Meanwhile, Nutaba noticed that Wasurenagusa was murdered right after she received Nutaba's data, which caused Nutaba to later realize that Wasurenagusa had been a spy. Nutaba also wanted to hide her treacherous behavior at all costs, even if it meant turning the murder into an unsolvable case. Meanwhile Tayu Yugata, who was tasked with carrying on the secret mission to find the spy, saw this as an excellent chance to frame Yorokawa as the spy in order to eliminate an enemy for her boss Kyora Toshusai without even realizing that Yorokawa was indeed the true killer. At the same time, another classmate felt indebted to the true killer...Wasurenagusa's friend, Harukiri Botayama. (The truth was, they weren't friends — Harukiri was simply a source of information to Wasurenagusa, just like Nutaba.) Botayama felt extremely insecure whenever she was around her best friend and thus felt thankful to the killer from the bottom of her heart since she was now free from all the mental anguish that had been so difficult to bear. Therefore, Botayama was prepared to do whatever she could to keep the real killer from getting arrested—even if it meant framing someone else. In the worst-case scenario, she didn't even mind if she ended up being framed for the murder.

Now then, what about Soboro Oboro, the other spy? Funnily enough, Soboro was the only one who actually wanted to capture the real killer! As far as determining victory went... Shokuho Yorokawa received three votes (a majority), was revealed as the killer, and even got framed for being the spy as well, so Mamushihishimeki completely lost. This means that Koshibai, who was playing Tayu Yugata, completed her mission but was docked a few points for being a cipher soldier who ignored her secret mission and let the spy get away. Mokumokuren, who was playing Shutan Nutaba, succeeded in hiding the mistake she had made as an informant, but since the true killer was discovered, she left behind a worrisome element that could lead to the truth coming out through further testimonies. Karigane, who played Harukiri Botayama, was unable to protect the killer, so she won't end up with many points. It was a disadvantageous role for a mystery lover who has a tendency to search for the truth. In other words, Iroha, playing Soboro Oboro, was the only one who completed all the victory conditions. He ran into some close calls, but if we were to rank them all, it would be Iroha > Koshibai > Mokumokuren > Karigane > Mamushihishimeki.
And so...

The victor from group D during the second part of the class leading private selection is Iroha Irohazaka!

Iroha didn't necessarily nab an advantageous role, and if we were to search for one vital key to his victory, it might be the fact that no other player drew a code card that had their own data on it, despite the fact that there was one card each. As a result, all of the data on the code cards excluding the zero- and five-star cards were revealed, which skewed the data. Of course, the game was designed so that there would be a greater possibility of things ending up that way. It was also designed to force people to share information in order to find the spy or the killer (or even just unsettle someone), regardless of whether they wanted to arrest, protect, or hide a specific target. Thus, the players slowly revealed the data on the code cards little by little, mixing it in with what they said in order to see how other people reacted to it. (Honestly, there was some information that would prove more advantageous when not revealed, but I guess people just can't resist announcing the answer to a code they've solved themselves. Perhaps the best option was to leave those things unsolved like Iroha.) By burying the majority of the data flood in the darkness, he succeeded in arriving at the truth. Continually choosing the best option is no small feat, and personally, I think that's what makes murder-mystery games so fun.

OH, IROHA-ZAKA-KUN.

YOU'RE GOING TO ANNOUNCE YOUR VICTORY IN THE CLASS-ROOM TOO?

1-A

HEH HEH... I HOPE YOU'LL GO EASY ON ME...

I LOOK FORWARD TO FACING OFF AGAINST YOU IN THE FINALS, IROHA-KUN!

THAT'S RIGHT!

TOSHIISAI-SAN! AND YOSAIMURA-SAN...

DOES THAT MEAN YOU TWO WON AS WELL?

YEAH, I GUESS THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D BE GOOD AT THIS KIND OF GAME...

EN-CHAN LOST ...?

I GUESS THAT MAKES TOSHIISAI-SAN THE TOP PICK WHEN IT COMES TO A POSSIBLE WINNER.

ESPECIALLY SINCE GROUP A'S WINNER IS PROBABLY ANOTHER PERSON FROM THE TOSHIISAI GROUP...

Why is she emphasizing "Tayutan" now?

HEH HEH... GUESS THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE LOST THEN.

BESIDES ...

I ALSO RECEIVED SOME DEVOTED SUPPORT FROM TAYUTAN.

IT WAS ELEMENTARY...

MEAN-WHILE, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE WORRIED YOUR LITTLE BUTT OFF.

IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE IN A REALLY TOUGH GROUP, TOSHIISAI-SAN...

OMOMURO-SAN...

ANO-NYMITY-SAN?!

THANKS... ER, HUH?!

WHAT TOOK YOU ALL SO LONG? CHILL...

THE INSTRUCTOR STILL ISN'T BACK YET.

HOW DID YOU DEFEAT MY YUKAKO?

HOW DID YOU DEFEAT HER?

STILL, IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

I DON'T CARE WHO I'M UP AGAINST EITHER.

I KNEW THAT I'D STILL GET INTO A GROUP EVEN IF I WAS LAST...

...SO THERE WAS NO POINT IN SOLVING THE CODE IN THE FIRST PLACE. JUST A WASTE OF ENERGY.

AND NOT ONLY THAT, YOU WENT OVER THE TIME LIMIT!

SORRY IF THIS SOUNDS RUDE, BUT YOU WERE THE LAST ONE OUT OF EVERYONE!

YOU'RE THE WINNER FROM GROUP A?!

THAT'S ...

...NOT FAIR...

?!

IT WAS EASY. I ENDED UP AS THE CHIEF INVESTIGATOR...

...SO I JUST TOOK A GANDER AT ALL THE CODE CARDS BEFORE I PASSED THEM OUT.

...AS THE CHIEF INVESTI-GATOR IN THE FIRST PLACE.

IN WHICH CASE, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU SIMPLY ENDED UP...

...JUST BY GLANCING AT THEM?

...DOES THAT MEAN SHE SOLVED TEN CODES AT ONCE...

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...

IT'S MORE THAN UNFAIR...

HOW DID YOU WIN, THEN?

WHAT? NONE OF YOU LOOKED? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

WAIT, LEMME REPHRASE THAT... HOW ARE YOU ALL NOT DEAD BY NOW?

ONLY A MORON WOULD LEAVE THINGS TO CHANCE INSTEAD OF CHOOSING THE MOST ADVAN-TAGEOUS ROLE FOR THEMSELVES.

WHY WOULDN'T I? I'M A CIPHER SOLDIER.

OH, I LOOKED AT ALL THE CHARACTER SHEETS WHILE I WAS PRETENDING TO LINE THEM UP FOR PEOPLE TO PICK, OF COURSE.



Anonymity Requested

Class 1-A's only "anything goes" student

Errata Info

Murder-mystery games are meant to be played while observing certain decorum. The above comments belong to that character alone and are not meant to promote any similar sort of disrespectful play style. Playing murder-mystery games in such a manner not only deprives them of fun, but could also lead to certain individuals losing every last one of their family members and friends. Lastly, "The Murder at Cipher Academy" is fiction, and Waon Wasurenagusa is a fictional victim.

To be continued!

ANGO = un go

BOTH DECODING AND EXPLANATIONS ARE PROHIBITED.

IT'S MEANT TO BE A DAY OF RESTORATION, WHEN YOU CAN REST YOUR BRAINS.

TODAY IS UNCODED DAY, A SPECIAL DAY THAT COMES UP ONCE A SEMESTER.

CIPHER ACADEMY

◎Free Zone

△Limited Outing Zone

⚠Prohibited Zone

✕Danger Zone

Chapter 17:

STUPID WARS ARE BASICALLY RESTS

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

ELEMENTARYYY!!

THIS!

IS!

JUST!

SO!

YESSSSS!!

I DON'T NEED TO DECODE ANYTHING! I DON'T NEED TO CREATE ANYTHING! I DON'T NEED TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING!

BWOOSH

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ

I DON'T HAVE TO DIEEE!!!

I CAN REST! I CAN REST! I CAN REST!

NOT A SINGLE PERSON HAS DIED SO FAR!

WE DID IT...

...YOU GUYS!

YOU REALLY NEED TO FOCUS ON GETTING SOME REST, IROHAZAKA-KUN.

YEAH.

THIS IS A DAY MEANT FOR RECOVERY, AFTER ALL.

BUT WE SHOULDN'T GET TOO EXCITED.

RECREATION...

TOSHIUSAI-SAN'S ALREADY ACTING LIKE OUR LEADER THOUGH...

NOW, PLEASE SUGGEST A FORM OF RECREATION THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE CODES.

IN ANY CASE, CLASSES ARE CANCELED FOR TODAY.

INSTRUCTOR NIKUEDA SAID WE SHOULD TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER BEFORE THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE IS CHOSEN.

ANY REGULAR CIPHER STUDENT WOULD JUST START READING BETWEEN THE LINES...

IN THAT CASE...A READING PARTY PROBABLY WOULDN'T WORK EITHER, HUH?

HOW ABOUT SOFTBALL OR FOOTBALL? THOSE ARE NORMAL, RIGHT?

NO, THEY AREN'T. THEY'RE FULL OF SIGNS...

YES. WE PROBABLY WON'T BE DOING ONE OF THOSE AGAIN ANYTIME SOON. SAME GOES FOR BOARD GAMES.

GUESS THAT MEANS MURDER-MYSTERY GAMES ARE OUT TOO, HUH?

HYA HA HA!

THUD トン

SHE'S A THOROUGHLY THOROUGH ONE, THAT'S FOR SURE.

ANONYMITY REQUESTED-SAN DIDN'T EVEN COME TO SCHOOL TODAY...

AS ONE OF THE LEADING CLASS PRIVATE CANDIDATES, I WANT TO SUGGEST SOME-THING...

WHICH MEANS THAT DANCING AND MUSIC ARE ALSO PROHIBITED...

...BAUM-KUCHEN CAKES?

HOW ABOUT WE ALL MAKE...

...THE WORLD WOULD BECOME PEACEFUL IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

IF ARMIES WOULD ONLY COOK PASTRIES...

THEY'RE SWEET AND FLUFFY AND CAN MAKE ANYONE HAPPY.

NO NEED TO HIDE ANYTHING OR KEEP ANY SECRETS.

MAKING PASTRIES IS FUN.

Rokaku Yosaimura
Favorite Baumkuchen: Honig Apfel

...

IN THAT CASE, IT SEEMS LIKE THERE ARE NO DISSENTING OPINIONS...

I'LL VOTE FOR THAT TOO.

EVEN IF THERE'S BREAD TO SPARE, I STILL WANT TO EAT SWEETS.

FWIP

BECAUSE I WANT TO EAT PASTRIES.

I AGREE.

SWIP

AHH, NO, NO, TOSHII-SAN!

RECIPES ARE LIKE CODES, AREN'T THEY?

I SUSPECT WE'LL FIND SOME RECIPES IN THE LIBRARY.

...SO LET'S HEAD OVER TO THE HOME EC ROOM.

?

BESIDES, MILITARY RATIONS...

...NEED TO BE PREPPED OUTSIDE, FROM SQUARE ONE! ♡

EN-CHAN, CAN I MAKE A CROP CIRCLE?

OF COURSE NOT... THIS IS THE ACADEMY'S FARMLAND!

YOU KNOW WHAT? NICKNAMES MIGHT BE PROHIBITED TOO...

A crop circle in the shape of a bowl of udon?

GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF, IRO-IRO!

PLEASE, JUST GIVE ME A CODE TO BREAK!

A CODE...

Q. 23

Difficulty: Zzz

WHAM
BUT CAN GENETICALLY MODIFIED WHEAT...
...THAT'S HARVESTED IN MAY BE CONSIDERED A PART OF NATURE...?
Ensa Kasuri
Favorite Baumkuchen: Namara Butter
FWSH
MAYBE THE WHOLE POINT OF THIS WAS TO LET US GET IN TOUCH WITH NATURE A LITTLE.
YOSAIMURA-SAN'S ONE OF THE LEADING CLASS PRIVATE CANDIDATES, AFTER ALL...
Iroha Irohazaka
Favorite Baumkuchen: White

WHAM
...
I THINK I SORT OF UNDER-STAND...
... WHY ...
BUT WHY DID SHE CHOOSE BAUM-KUCHEN?
IS SHE A FAN OF *LIBERO NO TAKEDA*?
THERE MUST BE EASIER SWEETS TO MAKE...

THE OTHER GROUPS? LET'S SEE...
WE CAN'T LET THE OTHER GROUPS ...
...GET AHEAD OF THE WHEAT GROUP NOW, CAN WE?!
LET'S JUST FOCUS ON MOVING OUR HANDS INSTEAD OF OUR MOUTHS, IRO-IRO.
FOR-GET IT.
HUH?

Ransurotto Hahakura
Favorite Baumkuchen: Jiichiro

Iesuno Nohime
Favorite Baumkuchen: Golden

Akina Namasu
Favorite Baumkuchen: Kyo Baum

FANCY-PANTS NOBLES LOVE ANIMALS.

SHP

BUT I HEARD THAT SHE LIKES HORSES ...

NOHIME-SAN'S GROUP BECAME THE MILK GROUP, RIGHT?

WELL, THEY BOTH HAVE NAMES THAT ARE RELATED TO BIRDS.

MORE LIKE SYMBOLS THAN CODES, I GUESS.

Kakune Karigane
Favorite Baumkuchen: Nenrinya

TEE HEE

Sunka Umitsubame
Favorite Baumkuchen: Kunugi

AND UMITSUBAME-SAN AND KARIGANE-SAN BECAME THE EGG GROUP, RIGHT?

HAVE THOSE TWO EVER INTERACTED WITH EACH OTHER?

WELL, THEY PROBABLY GOT PERMIS-SION.

Soboro Oboro
Favorite Baumkuchen: Beni no Ki

WHAK

スカーン

Shokuho Yorokawa
Favorite Baumkuchen: Moist Tokyo Banana

Otamajakushi Mamushihi-shimeki
Favorite Baumkuchen: Zunda

THEY'RE IN THE LIMITED ZONE, RIGHT?

I'M A LITTLE BIT WORRIED ABOUT THE BAMBOO GROUP...

ZAW

ZAW

Ashibi Mokumokuren
Favorite Baumkuchen: Kitakaro Fairy Forest

Harukiri Botayama
Favorite Baumkuchen: Rice Flour

Shutan Nutaba
Favorite Baumkuchen: Hakata Sweet King Strawberrry

Shitsuke Koshibai
Favorite Baumkuchen: Mujirushi Hodgepodge

CLATTER
カラン

SAW
ギコ

GOOD WORK! TAKE A BREAK. WE'VE GOT MORE WORK COMING UP!

YOU TWO ARE BACK ALREADY?! I KNEW THAT WOULDN'T TAKE LONG!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT SUGAR?

I DON'T THINK CIPHER ACADEMY HAS SUGARCANE FIELDS...

ARE YOU GOING TO USE FRUIT INSTEAD?

OH, THAT REMINDS ME, YOSAI-MURA-SAN...

OKAY... WOW, YOU EVEN MADE CHAIRS! THIS IS AMAZING!

WOW! THEY'RE GOING TO GATHER HONEY FROM FLOW-ERS?

THAT SOUNDS KINDA NICE...

RUSTLE

I HAD THE TOSHUSAI GANG GO OUT TO GET SOME HONEY.

APPAR-ENTLY, THERE'S A NICE FLOWER FIELD OUT BACK.

OOH!

IT IGNITED!

BOOM

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. HERE YOU GO.

HONEY-COMB.

Tayu Yugata
Favorite Baumkuchen: Cold and Moist

Kyora Toshusai
Favorite Baumkuchen: Golden Moist

Yukako Omomuro
Favorite Baumkuchen: Obore Cream

THIS IS A DREAM COME TRUE!

TOSHUSAI-SAN!

パチ KRAKL

...TO THE REAL THING.

I'M SURPRISED BY HOW CLOSE IT LOOKS...

KRAK パチ

KRAK パチ

KRAKL パチ

...

BACK DURING WORLD WAR I...

HUH?

IF EVEN A PRISONER COULD MAKE ONE...

...THEN IT SHOULD BE EASY FOR US. WE HAVE THE WHOLE SCHOOL AT OUR DISPOSAL.

THE PREFECTURAL PRODUCTS EXHIBITION HALL?

IT ENDED UP GETTING SOLD AT THE PREFECTURAL PRODUCTS EXHIBITION HALL AND BECAME EXTREMELY POPULAR.

AT THE TIME, MOST JAPANESE PEOPLE HAD NEVER SEEN THAT TYPE OF CAKE BEFORE.

...USING WHATEVER MATERIALS HE COULD SCROUNGE UP FROM PRISON.

AFTER THE WAR ENDED, HE CREATED JAPAN'S FIRST BAUMKUCHEN...

...KARL JUCHHEIM, A GERMAN BAKER, WAS A PRISONER WHO WAS RELOCATED TO HIROSHIMA.

THAT'S RIGHT... THE PLACE THAT'S NOW KNOWN AS THE A-BOMB DOME.

IS THAT WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT, YOSAIMURA-SAN?

ALL THIS WASN'T TO GET IN TOUCH WITH NATURE. IT WAS A LESSON ABOUT PEACE, RIGHT?

POP

HA HA... NOPE.

I'D NEVER FORCE YOU TO STUDY ON A HOLIDAY ...

...OR WHEN YOU'RE EATING SWEETS, FOR THAT MATTER.

...IN ANY WAR IN HUMAN HISTORY.

JUST REMEMBER THAT THERE HAVE NEVER BEEN ANY HOLIDAYS...

...SECRET INGREDIENT.

THAT'S A BITTER...

はむ NOM

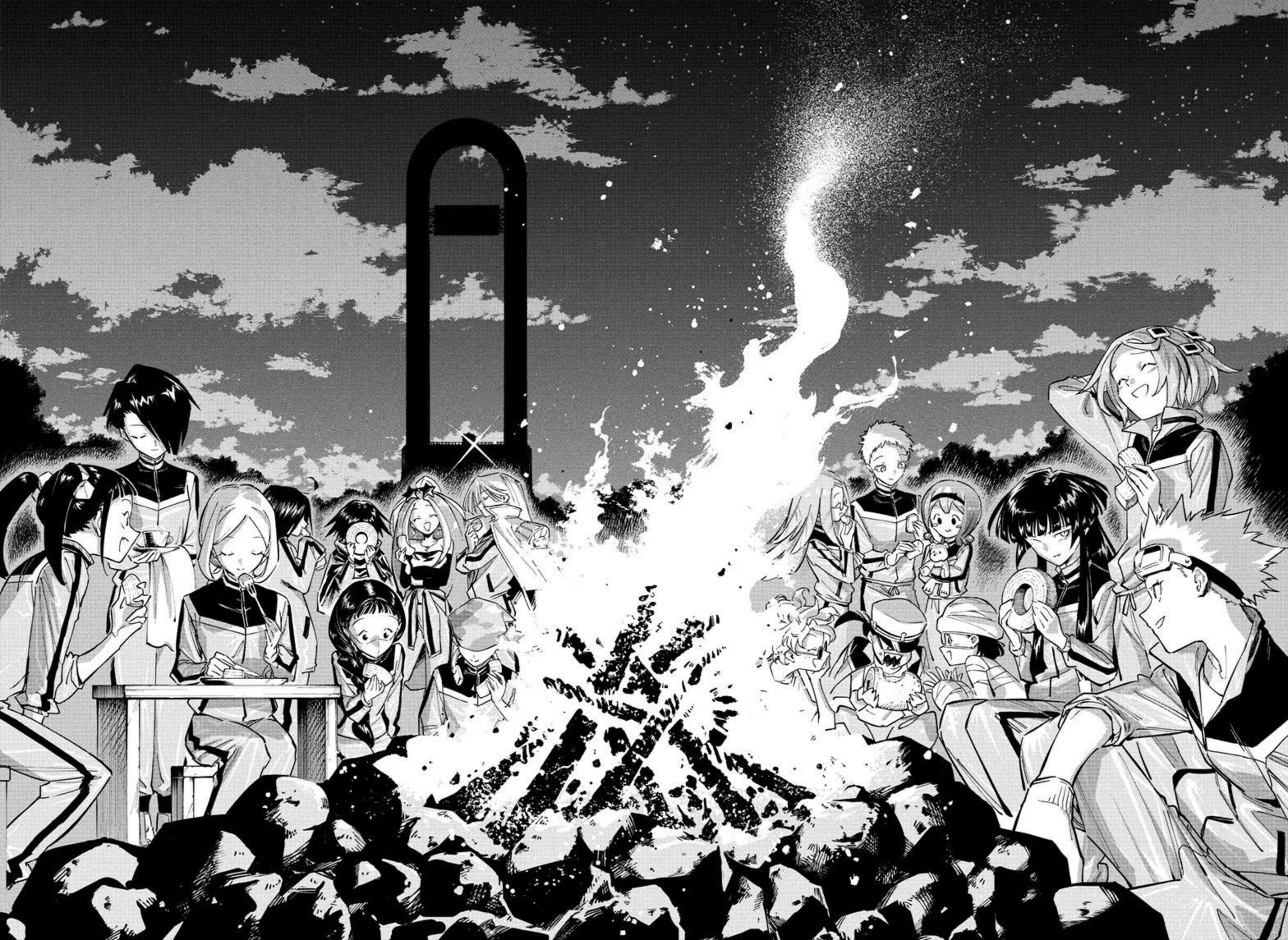
YOU SAID THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY SECRETS OR HIDDEN THINGS IN THIS!

THAT'S NOT FAIR, YOSAI-MURA-SAN!

WE'RE EATING SWEETS HERE.

CHOMP パク

STOP TRYING TO ACT SO COOL.



NAH, THEY REALLY GOT ONE OVER ON US THIS TIME.

CAN'T SAY IT TOO LOUDLY, BUT...

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE THEY DOING?

THERE ARE TONS OF BAUMKUCHEN ON SALE AT THE CAFETERIA...

Kogoe Horagatoge
Likes Corn Dogs

Anonymity Requested
Favorite Baumkuchen: Anything Goes

...THAT SHOULD HAVE PERSISTED AFTER THE MURDER-MYSTERY GAME.

...THEY DID AN AMAZING JOB OF DECRYPTING THE FROSTY ATMOSPHERE OF MISTRUST...





Class Leading Private Selection Exam, Final Test

Leaky Poker

To be continued!

...AND HER CHARACTER CARD WAS ALL BLACK.

I DON'T THINK SHE'S ACTUALLY FROM KANSAI.

I PLAYED **ACCESS PROHIBITED** -SAN DURING THE MURDER-MYSTERY GAME...

...WAS SIMPLY DOING HER BEST NOT TO STAND OUT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY DURING THE CASSE-TÊTE QUARTET.

PERHAPS **MILITARY SECRET** -DONO...

...WITHOUT ANY CHEATING, WELL...

IF YOU WERE TO ASK ME IF **SELF-RESTRAINT** -SAN WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WIN...

DUE TO THE CHEATING, I DON'T CONSIDER THAT SECOND ROUND A LOSS.

...AGREE.

...ALL...

WE...

...THAT'S THE GLASSES WEAPON I GAVE TO

ACCOUNT FROZEN.

"PERSONAL PACKAGE."

CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, BUT...

THE ONLY REASON SHE WAS ABLE TO BREAK THE CODES IN AN INSTANT DURING THE SECOND ROUND...

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GLASSES HAVE NO DECODING POWERS.

...WAS BECAUSE SHE'S SIMPLY THAT SKILLED.

NO ONE CAN SEE WHO "SHE" REALLY IS.

IT'S A GLASSES VERSION OF CHAFF, WHICH ALLOWS SOMEONE TO AVOID PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION.

CHOMP

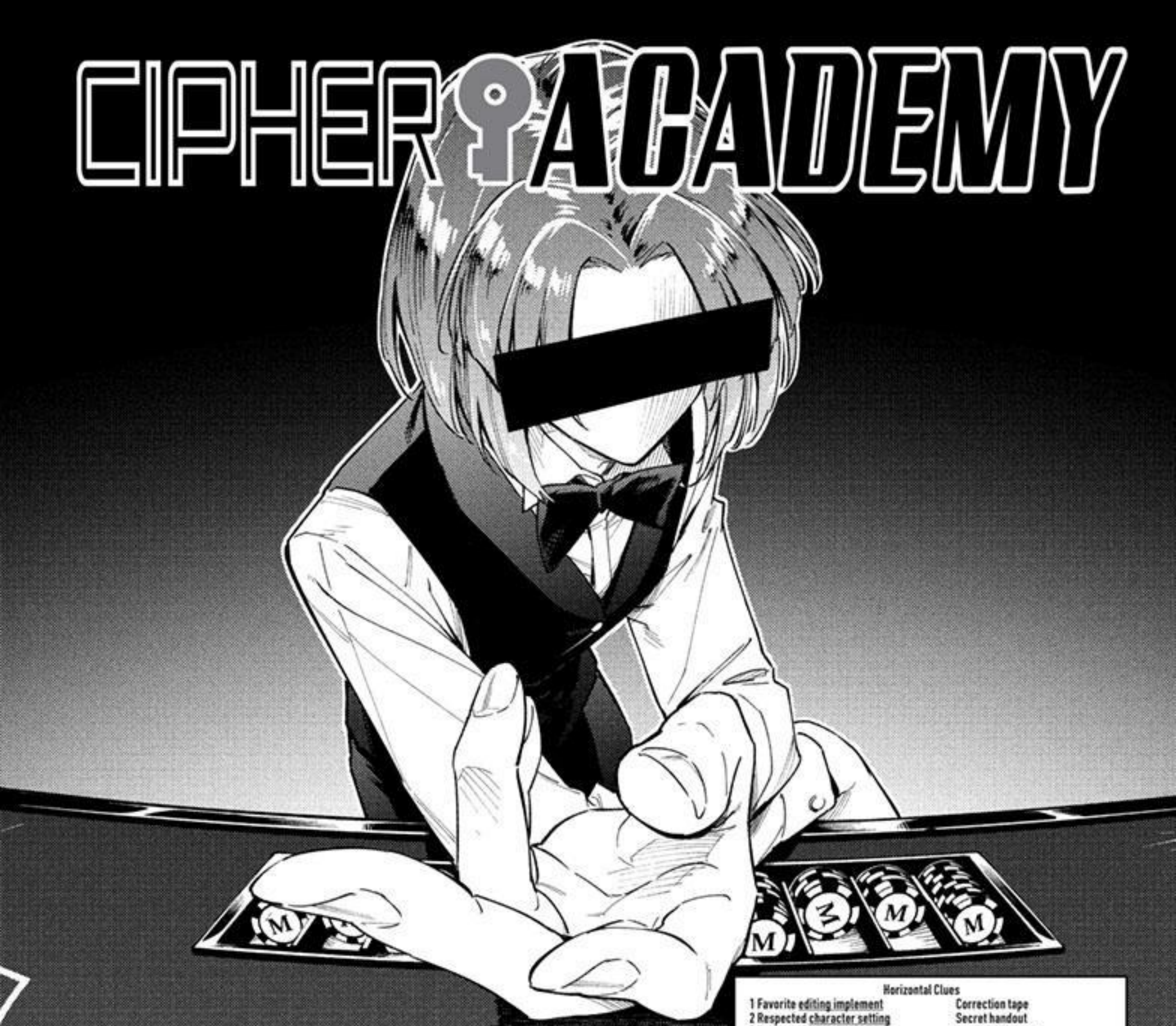
IRIS RECOGNITION, FACIAL RECOGNITION, SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS, SATELLITE RADAR, AND MORE...

SHE ISN'T A THREAT BECAUSE SHE'S A CHEATER...

SHE'S A THREAT WHO ALSO CHEATS.

THERE'S NO HOPE OF BEATING SOMEONE LIKE THAT, IS THERE? AND NO FAME TO BE GAINED FROM BEATING SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EVEN BE IDENTIFIED...

CIPHER ACADEMY





Chapter 18:

A TRUE SOLDIER SHOULD KNOW THEIR CODES

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

1-A Class Leading Private Selection

Final Round

FIRST, WE'LL START OFF WITH THE FINAL VOTE.

EVERYONE GETS THREE VOTES.

VOTE FOR THE PERSON YOU THINK IS MOST FIT TO BE YOUR CLASS LEADER.

投票 BOX

*Ballot

YOU'RE CHOOSING THE OFFICER WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF YOUR FATES, AFTER ALL.

YOU ARE PROHIBITED FROM VOTING FOR THE SAME PERSON TWICE...

...SO CHOOSE YOUR VOTES CAREFULLY, ROOKIES.

...THE CANDIDATE WHO WON'T RECEIVE ANY VOTES.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE PURPOSE IS TO CHOOSE...

SHE CHANGED THE WHOLE FOCUS OF THIS THING.

THIS ISN'T WHAT I WAS EXPECTING...

THAT MEANS ONE PERSON CAN VOTE FOR THREE OUT OF THE FOUR...

THERE ARE FOUR CANDIDATES, AND EVERYONE GETS THREE VOTES...?

"...I DON'T WANT TO NOMINATE AS THE LEADER?"

"WHO'S THE ONE PERSON..."

OR RATHER, THE FATE OF THE NEXT GREAT WAR?

WHO'S THE ONE PERSON WE DON'T WANT TO ENTRUST WITH OUR FATES...

NOW FOR THE RESULTS.

THE CANDIDATE WHO GOT THE MOST VOTES IS...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The fact that each person only gets three votes for four candidates means one person will not be chosen—very clearly demonstrating the truth that whenever you choose something, you are simultaneously forced to not choose something. But paradoxes do exist to this truth, such as the person everyone chose as their second pick ending up as first overall, proving that voting results are never easy to predict.

SECOND PLACE IS KYORA TOSHUSAI WITH 13 VOTES!

I'M IMPRESSED I WAS ONLY TWO VOTES BEHIND GIVEN MY PERSONALITY.

SUCH IS THE DESIGN OF MAJORITY DECISIONS ...

ROKAKU YOSAIMURA RECEIVED 15 VOTES! EVERYONE VOTED FOR HER!

HARD TO REALLY FEEL HAPPY ABOUT THAT.

I ONLY GOT THESE VOTES DUE TO A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION...

!!

THIRD PLACE IS ANONYMITY REQUESTED, WITH 12 VOTES!

...THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE WOULD HAVE VOTED FOR THE "ANYTHING GOES" GIRL...

IF EVERYONE ONLY GOT ONE VOTE!...

IS THERE EVEN ANYONE IN THIS CLASS WHO'S LESS POPULAR THAN ME?

HUH? I DID BETTER THAN I EXPECTED.

I THOUGHT YOU'D ALL OSTRACIZE ME A BIT MORE THAN THIS...

IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL.

THE TRUE INJUSTICE HERE IS HOW WE CAN'T DENY THE FACT THAT SHE'S INCREDIBLY SKILLED.

...WITH FIVE VOTES!

KRAK

Guh!

AND IN CLEANUP IS IROHA IROHA-ZAKA...

I NEED TO ACCEPT THAT... THIS IS THE LEVEL I'M AT RIGHT NOW.

...THAN IN MINE.

THEY DECIDED IT'D BE SAFER TO PUT THEIR LIVES IN THE HANDS OF A CHEATER...

I'M AT THE BOTTOM!

SINGLE DIGITS!

IN-STRUCTOR NIKUEDA WAS REALLY KIND WITH HER PHRAS-ING...

...STILL VOTED FOR ME!

I ALSO NEED TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT FIVE PEOPLE...

NOW, FOR THE CODE BATTLE...

...WE'LL HAVE THE FOUR CANDIDATES COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER...

...BY TURNING THEIR VOTES INTO CHIPS.

!!

いろは坂

*Iroha Irohazaka

THE GAME IS POKER...

...BUT A VERSION IN WHICH CODES ARE INVOLVED.

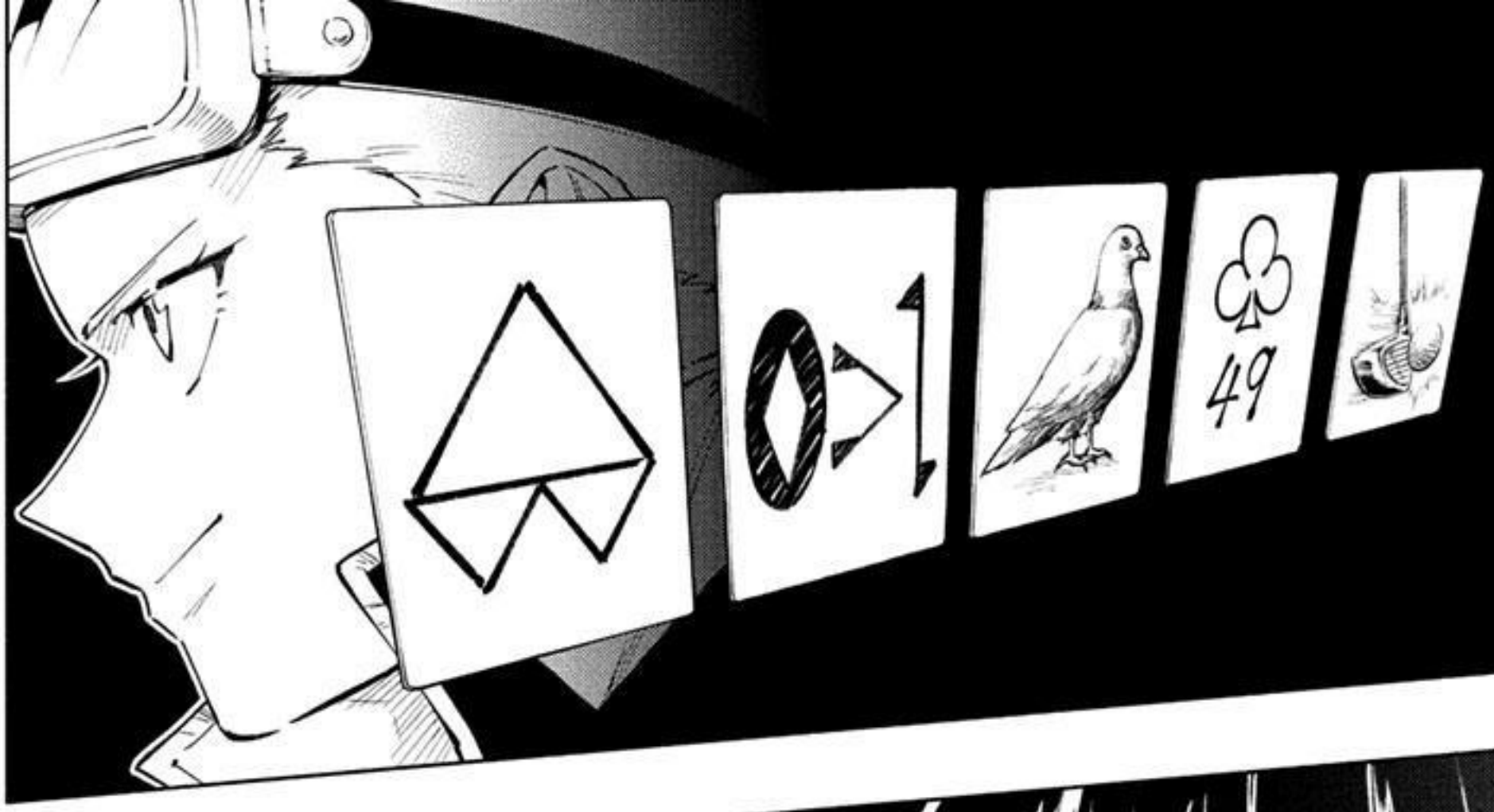
LEAKY POKER!

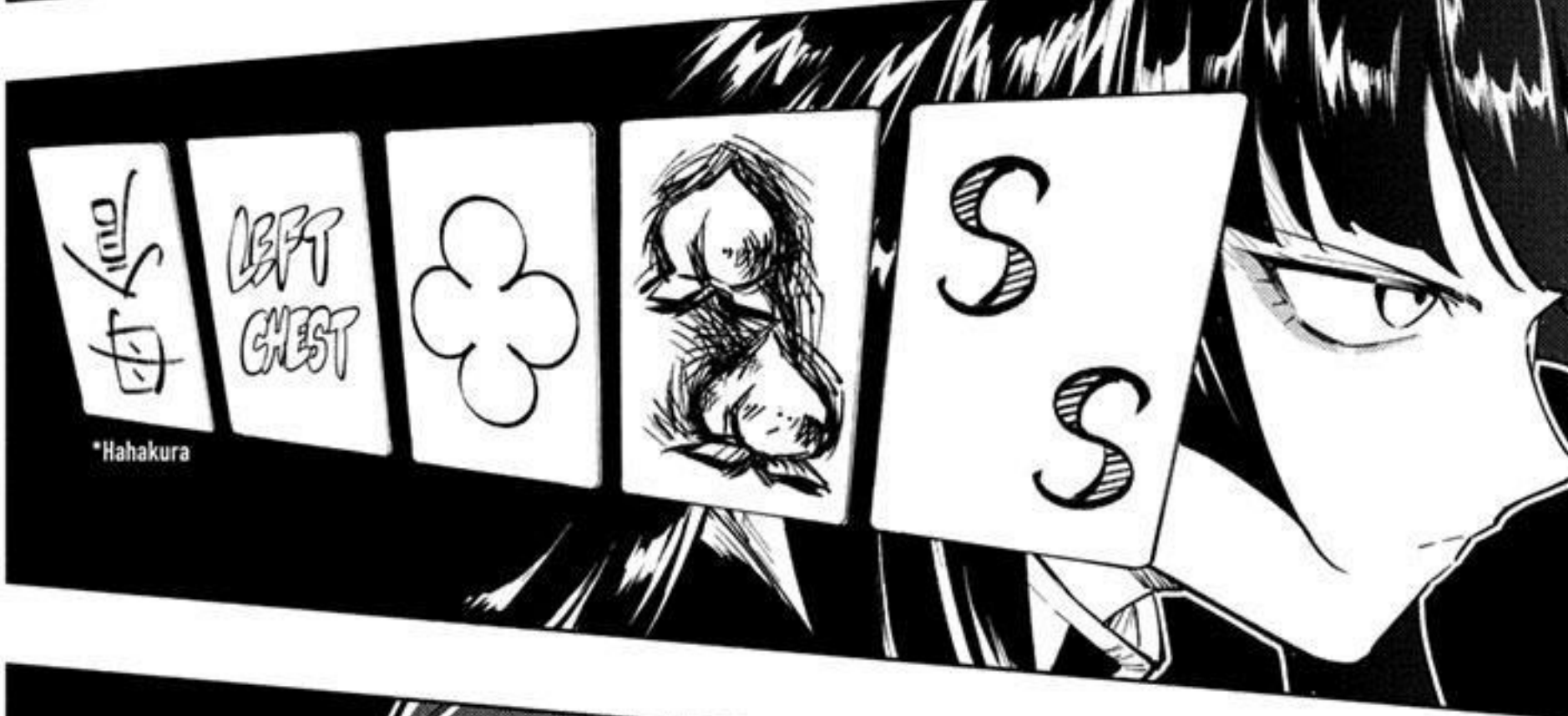
BAM

Q. 23

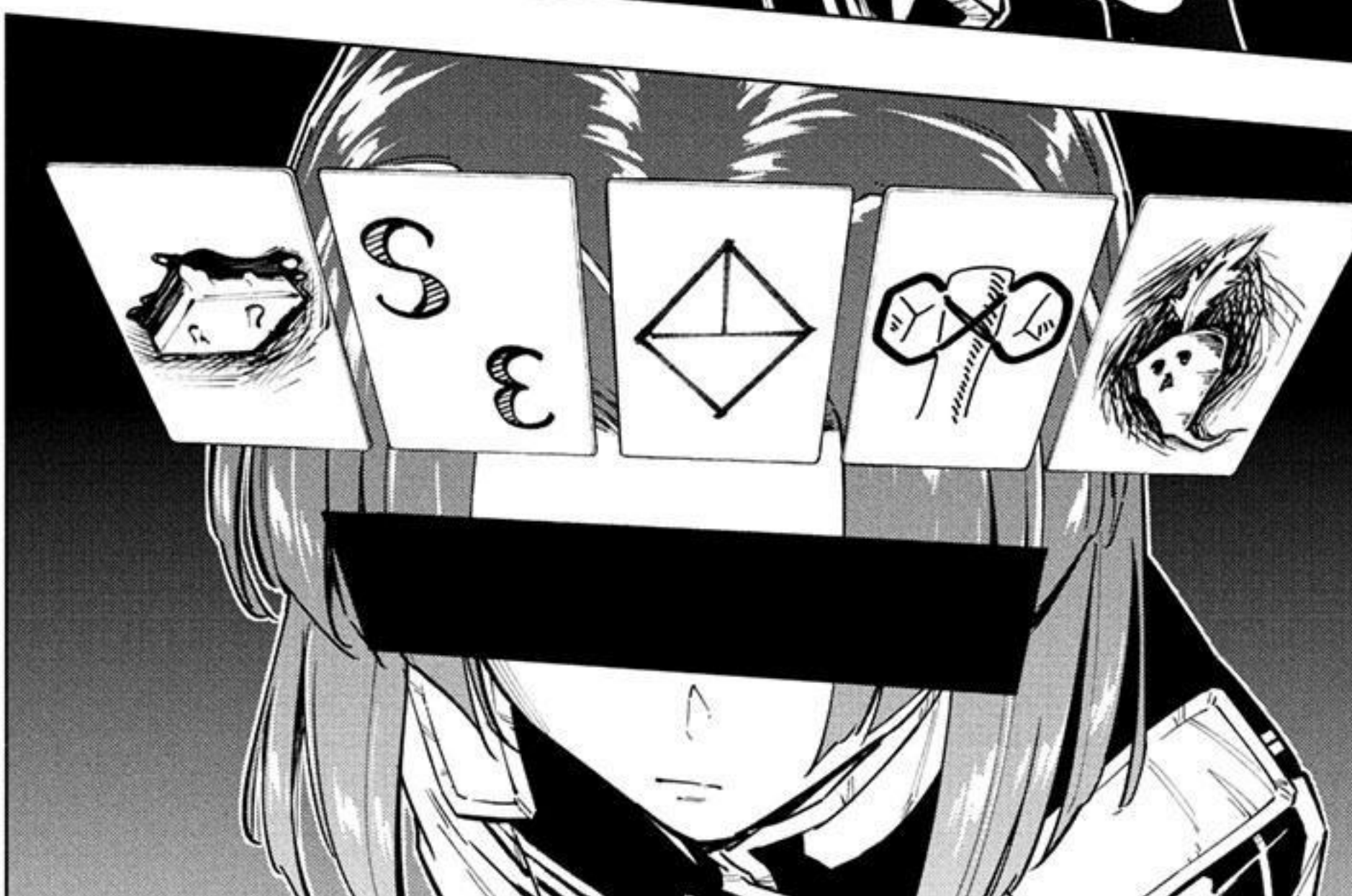
Difficulty: ★★★★★

*Hahakura





*Hahakura



IT'S A GAMBLING GAME IN WHICH YOU CAN ONLY SEE EVERYONE ELSE'S HANDS.

THE GAME'S BASED ON WHAT'S KNOWN AS BLIND MAN'S BLUFF...

...WHERE THE PLAYERS' HANDS ARE VISIBLE TO THEIR OPPONENTS.

IF YOU CAN'T BREAK THE CODES, YOUR OPPONENTS' HANDS WILL BE AS GOOD AS INVISIBLE...

...AND YOU'LL NEVER FIGURE OUT WHAT CARDS YOU HAVE EITHER.

BUT THIS IS A CODE BATTLE...

...SO NATURALLY, THE 53 CARDS USED IN THE GAME...

...WILL ALL BE ENCRYPTED.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

In a normal blind man's bluff game, only one card is revealed, but leaky poker reveals all five. In other words, the goal is to determine the best hand possible, as opposed to simply the highest number card. Playing with 53 cards means the joker is also included. The valid hands from highest to lowest are five of a kind, royal straight flush, straight flush, four of a kind, full house, flush, straight, three of a kind, two pair, pair, and high card. The suit strength ranking is spade, heart, diamond, then club.

LEAKY POKER, OF ALL GAMES?

IT'S ALMOST AS IF...

...YOU DESIGNED THESE RULES SPECIFICALLY FOR LADY

ACCOUNT FROZEN.

OF COURSE. I'LL ALWAYS LOVE IROHA...

...EVEN IF HE DOESN'T END UP AS THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE.

AND YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT, CG.

WHEN IT COMES TO POKER...

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? I THOUGHT YOU WERE ROOTING...

...FOR THE YOUNG BOY, IROHAZAKA.

THE ONE WHO HATES CHEATING NO MATTER HOW WEAK IT MAY MAKE HIM...

THREE VOTES, PLEASE.

HERE'S MY BET. ALONG WITH ONE VOTE FOR THE ANTE.

...A POKER FACE.

...YOU'D BETTER HAVE...

TUP

117...

NOT TRUE! SHE'S THE ONE PERSON...

...WHO MIGHT ACTUALLY BE CAPABLE OF MURDERING A BUNCH OF CODES AT ONCE—

SHE'S ON THE ATTACK!

BUT THERE ARE 15 CODES...

THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD HAVE SOLVED THEM ALL ALREADY!

ALL IN WITH FIVE VOTES!!

CALL AND RAISE!

It takes all the running You Can do to keep in the same place.

TUP

IT MUST BE A FIRST-CLASS BLUFF!

NO WAY!

...MANAGE TO BREAK OUR CODES ALREADY...?

DID IROHAZAKA-KUN, THE CANDIDATE IN LAST PLACE...

HE'S RISKING EVERYTHING ALREADY?!

WHOA!

...ANONYMITY REQUESTED-SAN?

[redacted]

...

ARE YOU GOOD AT KEEPING UP A POKER FACE...

ON THE CONTRARY...

...MAKE A COME-BACK!

...IT'S EASY FOR ME TO STAY POSITIVE WHEN I NEED TO...

KEEPING UP A SMILE IS ELEMENTARY TO ME!

It takes all the running you can do to keep in

To be continued!

IF HE LOSES THIS GAMBLE, IT'S OVER!

IT'S ONLY THE FIRST ROUND OF LEAKY POKER...

...AND IROHA IROHA-ZAKA'S ALREADY GONE ALL IN!

SHF...

IT'D BE HARD TO PLAY EVEN A NORMAL GAME OF POKER LIKE THAT.

IT'S TRUE THAT BLUFFS ARE BEST PERFORMED AT THE START OF BATTLE.

EITHER WAY, IROHA IROHAZAKA'S THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE DOUBLE-DIGIT CHIPS...

NORMALLY YOU GO CLOCKWISE WHEN PLACING BETS, RIGHT?

WHICH MEANS THAT I'M AFTER ANONYMITY-SAN.

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT.

YOU SKIPPED MY TURN, IROHA-KUN.

...WOULD BE THE FIRST PERSON TO PLACE A BET.

TECHNICALLY, WE NEVER EVEN DECIDED THAT ANONYMITY-SAN...

BWA HA HA! FINE THEN, YOU CAN BE FIRST.

WE NEVER DECIDED I WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST PERSON TO PLACE A BET EITHER.

HEY, DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK HERE.

YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO PICK UP A CHIP THAT'S ALREADY BEEN PLACED ON THE BOARD?

I JUST...

...BEFORE IROHA-KUN MADE HIS BET!

...WANTED TO MAKE TWO CALLS AND ONE RAISE...

...FOR A TOTAL BET OF THREE CHIPS...

WHAM

WHAT'S THE POINT IN DOING THAT, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

UH... WHAT?

FOUR CHIPS INCLUDING THE ANTE?

I FOLD.

FWIP

...

UHH... I'M STILL GOING TO...

...CALL AND RAISE LIKE BEFORE.

I FEEL SO STUPID SAYING THIS TWICE...

ALL IN FOR A TOTAL OF FIVE CHIPS!

KLAK

TCH. JERKS.

FINE. I FOLD TOO.

SMAK

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Placing a "bet" is when you pay the ante (participation fee), then gamble as many chips as you feel is reasonable. "Call" is used when someone responds to your bet with the same amount, while "raise" is used when someone adds more chips on top of your bet. When you "fold," you abandon your bet and remove yourself from the game. Going "all in" means betting all the chips you've got.

WHA...

WHAAAT ?!

?!

OKAY THEN, I FOLD TOO!

LOOKS LIKE IROHA-KUN WON THE FIRST GAME WITH HIS BLUFF!

SMAK

...

YOU JUST ANSWERED YOUR OWN QUESTION.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SHE WANTED TO DO.

...AND HANDED THEM TO IROHA-ZAKA-KUN...

SHE BASIC-ALLY GIFT WRAPPED THREE CHIPS...

WHAT IS SHE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH WITH ALL THIS?!

MMM.

NOW I CAN ENJOY THIS BATTLE.

...WHEN IT COMES TO WAR, RIGHT?!

Iroha Irohazaka
Current Ranking: 1st
Chips: 13

GOTTA FIGHT FAIR...

Rokaku Yosaimura
Current Ranking: 3rd
Chips: 11

Kyora Toshusai
Current Ranking: 2nd
Chips: 12

Anonymity Requested
Current Ranking: 4th
Chips: 9

LIKEWISE, IT'D BE EQUALLY STRANGE...

...IF A PERSON LIKE ME, WHO HASN'T ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING, STARTED WITH THE MOST VOTES.

I ADMIT THAT YOU'RE SKILLED, ANONYMITY-SAN...

...BUT IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT IF A CHEATER LIKE YOU DIDN'T START IN LAST PLACE.

AND MORE THAN ANYTHING, IT'S UNBELIEVABLE THAT IROHA-KUN, SOMEONE COOL ENOUGH TO PULL THAT OFF...

...WOULD START OFF WITH A SINGLE-DIGIT VOTE COUNT.

I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOUR EFFORTS IN TRYING TO BECOME THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE FROM THE SHADOWS.

I DON'T INTEND TO LOSE, BUT I ALSO DON'T INTEND TO WIN ON A TECHNICALITY BASED ON A MAJORITY VOTE...

...SO I HOPE YOU'LL ACCEPT MY GRATUITY!

YOSAI-MURA-SAN...

NAH, YOU'RE DEFINITELY GONNA BE THE CLP NOW...

I THOUGHT ABOUT THAT TOO, OF COURSE...

...BUT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO COMPLETELY READJUST ALL THE VOTES.

BWA HA HA! COME ON NOW, TOSHU-SAN...

I HAVE NO MAJOR DISAGREE-MENTS WITH WHAT YOU SAID...

...ALTHOUGH I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THAT I'M STILL IN SECOND PLACE.

DO YOU CONSIDER THAT TO BE APPROPRI-ATE AS WELL?

IN WHICH CASE, UH, I GUESS YOUR BEST POSSIBLE SPOT WOULD BE BELOW HIM.

YOU ALSO LOST TO IROHA-KUN RIGHT AFTER ENROLLMENT, RIGHT?

...I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

TRUE.

WHY IS SHE OPENING UP THAT OLD WOUND?!

I ONLY WON BECAUSE I CHEATED TOO!

I SUPPOSE IT'S ABOUT TIME THIS NOBLE VILLAINESS GOT SERIOUS.

AND NOW HERE I SIT, SURROUNDED BY NAÏVE CHILDREN WHO STILL NEED HELP WIPING THEIR BUTTS...

CENSORED

...WANNA DECIDE THE ORDER WITH ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS?

SORRY, I FELL ASLEEP...

ARE YOU DONE TALKING NOW? IF SO...

IT'S ME, YOUR LOYAL FRIEND IROHA-ZAKA-KUN!

HEY!

CIPHER ACADEMY

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

Chapter 19:

DECODE AS FAST AS THE WIND, QUIET DOWN QUICKLY, INVADE AND LAUNCH AN AIR RAID, THEN REMAIN AS UNSTOPPABLE AS A DRAGONFLY

DESPITE THE TENSE ATMOSPHERE OF THE FIRST ROUND OF...

...LEAKY POKER, THE FINAL PART IN THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE SELECTION...

...THE FOLLOWING ROUNDS PLAYED OUT CALMLY AND UNEVENTFULLY.

SHF

FWSH

FOR STARTERS, PEOPLE STOPPED BETTING.

THREE PEOPLE WOULD FOLD IN CLOCK-WISE ORDER...

...ALLOWING ONLY THE ANTE TO TRAVEL BETWEEN HANDS.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S LIKE BLIND MAN'S BLUFF IF YOU CAN'T DECIPHER THE ENCODED CARDS...

NO, IT'S MORE COMPLI-CATED THAN THAT.


It takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place.
...AND I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DECODE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF THEM...
I CAN SEE 15 CARDS FROM MY PERSPECTIVE PER ROUND...

EVEN I CAN (SORTA) RECOGNIZE THAT QUOTE AS A FAMOUS LINE FROM THE RED QUEEN IN THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS.

It takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place.

FOR EXAMPLE, THIS CARD THAT WAS DEALT TO ANONYMITY REQUESTED-SAN THIS ROUND!

...THAT'S THE CONCLU-SION I WOULD HAVE COME TO A MONTH AGO...

AT LEAST...

...SO THIS CARD MUST BE THE OTHER RED— THE QUEEN OF DIAMONDS! COMPLETELY ELEMENTARY!

THE QUEEN OF HEARTS APPEARS IN ALICE IN WONDERLAND, THE FIRST BOOK...

...WHICH OPENS UP THE POSSIBILITIES THAT IT COULD BE THE QUEEN OF SPADES OR THE QUEEN OF CLUBS IF YOU OVERANALYZE IT EVEN FURTHER.

AFTER ALL, THE RED QUEEN DOESN'T REPRESENT A QUEEN FROM A PLAYING CARD, BUT RATHER THE BLACK QUEEN FROM CHESS...

OR, RATHER...IT IS SIMPLE, WHICH IS WHAT LEAVES IT OPEN TO SO MUCH INTERPRETATION.

THAT'S RIGHT, IT ISN'T EASY.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Simply labeling it as the queen of diamonds alone would be an overanalysis, and there's no proof that the shallow answer of, "Oh, red and queen? It must be the queen of hearts!" is necessarily wrong. There are 14 words, so it's also possible to conclude it's an ace. Unlike quizzes and riddles, it's hard to narrow a code down to a single answer—a characteristic that is especially prominent in this case. Why, you ask? Well...

DEPENDING ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, ANY GROUP OF FIVE CAN LOOK LIKE A FIVE-OF-A-KIND.

AND SINCE YOU CAN ONLY EVER GLANCE AT EVERYONE ELSE'S HAND, IT BECOMES REALLY HARD TO MAKE A MOVE.

IT'S NOT THAT THEY CAN'T BREAK THE CODES...IT'S THAT THE CODES CAN BE INTERPRETED IN ANY NUMBER OF WAYS.

BECAUSE THESE CODES REPRESENT FOUR DIFFERENT MARKS AND SIMPLE NUMBERS.

I FOLD.

TUP

I FOLD.

TUP

I FOLD.

TUP

...WITH A SUCCESS RATE OF AT LEAST 50 PERCENT. THAT PROBABLY WON'T HAPPEN UNTIL AFTER THE TENTH ROUND.

THE ONLY WAY TO BREAK THROUGH THIS STANDSTILL IS IF EACH PLAYER CAN CONFIRM AT LEAST HALF OF THE 53 CARDS...

IF THEY'RE FAST, THAT IS... ♡

...TRIAL AND ERROR MIGHT ONLY LEAD TO CONSTANT ERRORS.

SINCE THE NUMBER OF INTERPRETATIONS IS LIMITLESS...

SHF

Eighth Round

TINK...

HERE'S MY BET.

TWO CHIPS.

14

TA—

HA HA!

?!

HEY, I'M SORRY. YOU DON'T NEED TO GET ALL MAD.

SHP

I WASN'T TRYING TO RUSH YOU OR ANYTHING, OKAY?

PIGGY.

失恋

1000

PIGGY.

剣士

21

PIGGY.

LITILIZING CHANCES SUCH AS THESE IS THE KEY TO LEAKY POKER, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

THREE LITTLE PIGGIES.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

If you pick five random cards from a 53-card deck with a joker in it, the possibility that you'd get no proper combination is low. Therefore, if you've determined that everyone else around you has no proper combination, the standard tactic would be to try to win the round. Of course, there's certainly the possibility that you might have no proper combination and could lose if someone has a higher card, but there's no such thing as a riskless gamble.

...ALREADY BEEN THROUGH ALL 53 CODES MORE THAN ONCE.

SHE PROBABLY SAW EVERY-THING OVER THE PAST EIGHT ROUNDS.

KYORARIN'S...

HMM...

SHE ISN'T THAT *HONEST* IF YOU ASK ME.

NOW TOSHIISAI'S BLUFFING?

THE BETTER HER READING COMPREHEN-SION...

...THE HARDER IT SHOULD BE TO NARROW THINGS DOWN.

IF IT WAS ONE OR TWO CARDS, MAYBE... BUT SHE'S SEEING 15 ALL AT ONCE!

BUT STILL...

THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD ALREADY BE CONFIDENT IN HER ANSWERS ABOUT THE CARDS' CODES.

THAT ONLY THE MAIN CHARACTER PUTS FORTH EFFORT IN THE SHADOWS...

...MASTER?

...THAT I WOULDN'T LEARN ANYTHING FROM THAT?

YOU REALLY THOUGHT THAT AFTER SEEING IROHA-KUN SHOW US...

...HOW TO "SNIFF OUT THE RIGHT ANSWER" IN THE FIRST ROUND...

I AL-READY APOLO-GIZED.

I LEARN FROM MY...

...MIS-TAKES.

...

BUT I'M NOT EVEN SURE ABOUT ANYTHING YET...

...

CALL.

CALL.

CALL.

THE VICTOR'S BEEN DECIDED, GUYS!

SHOW YOUR CARDS!

SHOW DOWN

SHE WON THE MOMENT SHE *MADE THEM BET.*

EVEN IF SHE LOSES IN TERMS OF HANDS...

KYORA TOSHIISAI!

BAM

THE VICTOR...

...IS THE EVER-LEARNING NOBLE VILLAINESS ...

Iroha Irohazaka
Current Ranking: 2nd
Chips: 8

...TO SINGLE-DIGIT CHIPS!

EVERY-ONE'S BEEN PUSHED DOWN...

Anonymity Requested
Current Ranking: 2nd
Chips: 8

Rokaku Yosaimura
Current Ranking: 4th
Chips: 6

Kyora Toshusai

Current Ranking: 1st
Chips: 23 (More than half)

KICK AT[illegible]RLAN[illegible]

HAS THIS IDIOM EVER BEEN USED BEFORE?

CENSORED

STARING AT A BUNCH OF PIG BUTTS.

To be continued!

NOW SHE COULD PROBABLY WIN WITH HER EYES CLOSED!

THE NOBLE VILLAINESS HAS OVER HALF THE VOTES!

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO ON PLAYING WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT ANY OF THE 53 CARDS REALLY ARE... HM?

WE'RE NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO CHECK THE ANSWERS TO THE CODES...

WE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO SEE EVERYONE'S HANDS DURING THE REVEAL AT THE END OF THE ROUND.

OBVIOUSLY, THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S HAPPENING...



THAT CARD IN TOSHUSAI-SAN'S HAND...

WHAT?

NGH!

GAAAAAAAH!

ガターン
KLATTER

?

?

OH DEAR... NOT AGAIN, IROHA-ZAKA-CHAN.

YOU DID THE SAME THING DURING THE MURDER-MYSTERY GAME...

THE MOMENT I DECIDED TO GET A LITTLE SERIOUS...

...I APPARENTLY STARTED TO LOOK LIKE SOMEONE ELSE...

...TO IROHAZAKA-CHAN'S EYES.

IT'S JUST LIKE A REPATRIATED SOLDIER WHO'S EXPERIENCED A BATTLEFIELD WITH BULLETS WHIZZING BY EVERY-WHERE...

...AND ENDS UP OVER-REACTING TO THE PARTY POPPERS AT A BIRTHDAY PARTY.

MAYBE HE GOT HORRIBLY BULLIED BY SOMEONE IN A PAST CODE BATTLE?

YEAH! BY YOU!

CIPHER ACADEMY

①	B	A	S	K	E	T	B	A	L	L
②		E	L	E	C	T	O	R	A	L
③		J	O	K	E	S	T	E	R	
④			B	R	A	V	A	D	O	
⑤			M	A	R	T	Y	R		
⑥				D	R	E	A	M		
⑦				B	E	A	M			
⑧					A	L	A			
⑨					A	H				
⑩						L				

Across Clues

① A(n) SPORT to PLAY — BASKETBALL
② SYSTEM you like for VOTING — ELECTORAL
③ Likes TRICKS — JOKESTER
④ Another word for ARROGANCE — BRAVADO
⑤ SACRIFICE in SUFFERING — MARTYR
⑥ SLEEPERS do this — DREAM
⑦ A(n) SHOT of LIGHT — BEAM
⑧ Use this to FLY — ALA
⑨ The EXPRESSION of REALIZATION — AH
⑩ Another word for LOSE — L

Down Clues

☆ What is your name? BOTAYAMA

①	H	Y	D	R	O	L	Y	S	I	S
②		P	A	C	K	H	O	R	S	E
③		S	P	A	R	E	R	I	B	
④			F	U	R	I	O	U	S	
⑤			A	L	A	S	K	A		
⑥				C	R	O	A	K		
⑦				F	L	O	W			
⑧					S	P	A			
⑨					G	O				
⑩						W				

Across Clues

① A(n) PROCESS to DECOMPOSE — HYDROLYSIS
② ANIMAL you like for MOVING — PACKHORSE
③ Likes BARBECUE — SPARERIB
④ Another word for ANGRY — FURIOUS
⑤ STATE in AMERICA — ALASKA
⑥ TOADS do this — CROAK
⑦ A(n) MOVEMENT of WATER — FLOW
⑧ Use this to RELAX — SPA
⑨ The ANTONYM of STOP — GO
⑩ Another word for WIN — W

Down Clues

☆ What is your name? YOROKAWA

Chapter 20: One Should Never Shy Away From Deception When Decoding On the Battlefield

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

①	D	E	B	A	U	C	H	E	R	Y
②	I	N	C	U	B	A	T	O	R	
③	D	I	A	R	R	H	E	A		
④	O	U	T	C	A	S	T			
⑤	M	E	D	A	K	A				
⑥		F	O	C	U	S				
⑦		F	E	A	R					
⑧			P	E	A					
⑨			Q	I						
⑩				K						

Across Clues

① A(n) *ACT* to *INDULGE* — DEBAUCHERY
② *APPARATUS* you like for *EGGS* — INCUBATOR
③ Likes *TOILETS* — DIARRHEA
④ Another word for *PARIAH* — OUTCAST
⑤ *JAPANESE FISH* in *FRESHWATER* — MEDAKA
⑥ *CAMERAS* do this — FOCUS
⑦ A(n) *EMOTION* of *ANXIETY* — FEAR
⑧ Use this to *EAT* — PEA
⑨ The *ENERGY* of *LIFE* — QI
⑩ Another word for *KILOMETER* — K

Down Clues

☆ What is your name? — HAHAKURA

①	A	B	S	T	I	N	E	N	C	E
②	B	L	A	C	K	M	A	I	L	
③	M	O	N	O	G	A	M	Y		
④	C	O	P	Y	C	A	T			
⑤	B	R	A	I	D	S				
⑥	H	A	I	K	U					
⑦	M	A	S	K						
⑧	C	U	P							
⑨	U	S								
⑩	F									

Across Clues

① A(n) ACT to STOP — ABSTINENCE
② METHOD you like for EXTORTION — BLACKMAIL
③ Likes LOYALTY — MONOGAMY
④ Another word for IMITATOR — COPYCAT
⑤ KNOTS in HAIR — BRAIDS
⑥ POETS do this — HAIKU
⑦ A(n) COVER of DISGUISE — MASK
⑧ Use this to DRINK — CUP
⑨ The SYNONYM of WE — US
⑩ Another word for FAILURE — F

Down Clues

☆ What is your name? — NAMASU

...DUE TO THE EMERGENCE OF AT LEAST ONE PERSON WHO (CLAIMED TO HAVE) SOLVED ALL 53 CODES.

AFTER THE NINTH ENGAGE-MENT...

...THE SITUATION ON THE BATTLEFIELD CHANGED...

...OF THE OTHERS WHO WERE TRYING TO READ HER EXPRES-SION.

MOREOVER, THEY BEGAN TRYING TO READ THE EXPRES-SIONS...

...TO READ HER EXPRES-SION...

FROM THAT POINT ON, EVERYONE ELSE NATURALLY STARTED TRYING...

...THE PURE "POKER" ELEMENT OF LEAKY POKER TRULY BEGAN TO REAR ITS HEAD.

IN OTHER WORDS, THIS WAS THE POINT IN THE GAME WHERE...

...AS IF THEY ALL INTENDED TO TAKE HER OUT.

...HAD A SERIOUS ADVANTAGE.

MORAL ORDINANCE

AND IN THAT REGARD...

...THIS CIPHER SOLDIER, ANONYMITY REQUESTED, A.K.A. MISS POKER FACE...

End of Round 20

Anonymity Requested
Current Ranking: 1st
Chips: 13

Rokaku Yosaimura
Current Ranking: 1st
Chips: 13

Kyora Toshusai
Current Ranking: 1st
Chips: 13

Iroha Irohazaka
Current Ranking: 4th
Chips: 6

SO ADOR-ABLE...

SO PATHET-IC...

POOR THING...

NO.

HE ISN'T EVEN ABLE TO FULLY UTILIZE HIS INFERIOR SKILLS HERE.

SO THE THREE STRONGEST CANDIDATES ENDED UP TIED...

...AND IROHAZAKA-KUN'S LACK OF SKILL IS STICKING OUT TO A CRUEL DEGREE.

NGH...

SHK

SHK

SHK

Round 21

I'LL PLACE A BET AND ANTE...

...FOR A TOTAL OF FOUR CHIPS.

I JUST HOPE SHOKUHO'S WATCHING OUT FOR ANY CHEATING...

SHE'S REALLY AGGRESSIVE DESPITE BEING TIED FOR FIRST...

?!

I'M GOING ALL IN!

CALL AND RAISE! THIRTEEN CHIPS TOTAL WITH THE ANTE!

I FOLD ...

PROBABLY A BIT TOO MUCH TO ASK FROM IROHAZAKA-KUN AT THIS POINT THOUGH.

...BUT ONLY BY GOING ALL IN.

HE CAN BET IF HE WANTS...

IS SHE TRYING TO END THIS?!

WAIT. WHAT HAPPENS TO IROHAZAKA'S TURN?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

This is because if you enacted a rule that requires someone who has less chips than the minimum bet to fold, the person with the most chips would be able to forcibly win as long as they kept going all in. Of course, even if someone wins a round by going all in, they only earn the amount of chips they bet. So even though Yosaimura bet 13 chips, Iroha would only be able to win six.

ALL IN.

CALL.

!!

14

TAXI 出通々
BUS だ VV
船旅チャプチャプ
ふわふわFLY

...ONE OF THEM IS GOING TO BE FORCED OUT!

TOSHIISAI-SAN'S GOING ALL IN TOO! AT THIS RATE...

...

AND IN THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION...

...ANONYMITY REQUESTED-SAN WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLD.

...YOSAI-MURA-SAN AND KYORARIN FORMED A PACT.

THEY DON'T WANT TO LET THE *EYELESS* ONE WIN, NO MATTER WHAT.

THE TWO OF THEM PROBABLY JUST WANT TO COLLECT ALL THE CHIPS IN ONE PLACE, EVEN IF IT MEANS ONE OF THEM GETTING ELIMINATED.

COMMUNICA-TING WITH JUST THEIR *EYES*...

HUH? SWITCH OUT CARDS?

THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D EVER BE ABLE TO DO THAT IN BLIND MAN'S BLUFF!

!!

HEY, DEALER LADY.

I WANT TO SWITCH OUT CARDS.

...

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE GAMES WHERE ANYTHING GOES DEPENDING ON THE TIMING, RIGHT?

AND NO ONE EVER SAID THAT CHANGING CARDS WAS AGAINST THE RULES OR COST A FEE.

BUT THIS ISN'T BLIND MAN'S BLUFF. IT'S LEAKY POKER, RIGHT?

...SO I'LL LET THINGS SLIDE JUST THIS ONCE...

...BUT ONLY IF YOU GO ALL IN AFTER SWITCHING CARDS.

STILL, IT'S EQUALLY TRUE THAT NO ONE SOUGHT TO CONFIRM THOSE RULES AT THE START...

TRUE, I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING ABOUT THAT. MY BAD.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Being able to switch cards is part of the fun of the psychological battle, but normally it's against the rules in blind man's bluff. Switching cards after other players have bet and raised is also especially bad manners and can ruin the balance of the game. But if there was a rule book, this sort of thing should have been stated explicitly instead of being understood, right? However...

SHE FELL FOR IT.

YOU LOVE TRYING TO CIRCUM-VENT THE RULES, DON'T YOU?

THERE-FORE, WE PURPOSE-FULLY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT SWITCHING CARDS BEFORE.

TRYING TO END THINGS SO OBVIOUSLY LIKE THIS WILL ALL BUT GUARANTEE THAT EVERYONE ELSE FOLDS.

AFTER ALL, THIS IS A POKER GAME IN WHICH YOU CAN'T SEE YOUR OWN CARDS.

...(AND AS FAR AS I CAN TELL ABOUT MY OWN HAND DUE TO THE FACT THAT TOSHU-SAN SYNCED UP WITH ME), IT'S WELL WORTH THE GAMBLE.

OF COURSE, THERE'S A RISK THAT SHE MIGHT ACTUALLY GET A GOOD HAND BY SWITCHING OUT ALL FIVE OF HER CARDS, BUT AS FAR AS I CAN TELL FROM TOSHU-SAN'S HAND...

NO, IRO-IRO!

YOU CAN'T GIVE ANYTHING AWAY WITH YOUR EXPRESSION...

...EVEN AFTER YOU FOLD!

AH...

THAT WAS A PRETTY LATE PIECE OF ADVICE...

...LITTLE MISS SPEED-STER.

HEY, LADY, GIMME A NEW CARD.

AND MAKE IT A GOOD ONE.

FWIP

SHOW-DOWN!

ANONYMITY "ANYTHING GOES ASIDE FROM MORALS" REQUESTED!

AND...

...THE WINNER IS...

BOTH OF THEM GOT KNOCKED OUT AT THE SAME TIME!

Chips: 0

Chips: 0

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

IT ISN'T YOUR FAULT, IROHA-KUN!

AH!

AHH...

AH!

Chips: 5

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FACE TOSHIUSAI-SAN EITHER...

NO... NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'S MY FAULT.

YOSAI-MURA-SAN...

I FOUGHT FAIRLY AND LOST FAIRLY.

I CAN'T MAKE EXCUSES OR BLAME SOMEONE ELSE!

IT'S MY FAULT FOR TAKING MY EYES OFF YOU...

...DESPITE AIMING TO BECOME THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE.

UNLESS I BREAK THE RULES TOO!

I MAY STILL BE IN THE GAME, BUT I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO WIN LIKE THIS..!

...AND MANAGED TO GET ME DOWN TO FIVE CHIPS...

SHE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY INCOMPLETE DECIPHERING...

...USED ME TO TRIP BOTH OF THEM UP...

Chips: 40

KLINK

カシャ

OOPS.

I'M...

...OFFENDED, IROHAZAKA-KUN.

I'M WAY CUTER, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

HOW COULD YOU EVER MISTAKE THAT CENSORED FOR ME?

IF YOU'RE TRULY MY FRIEND...

...IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU WOKE YOURSELF UP ALREADY.

...IF YOU WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE A *FAIR DRAW* WITH MY TAYUTAN...

...YOU HAVE NO REASON TO LOSE TO A RULE BREAKER.

SHE'S RIGHT.

SETTING ASIDE THE FACT THAT YOU CHEATED IN ORDER TO BEAT ME...

YOU KNOW, I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY, IROHA-ZAKA-KUN.

WELL, THAT SURE WAS A LOT OF TRASH TALK...

YEAH.

...

AN EYE FOR AN EYE.

A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.

MIGHT AS WELL MAKE THE MOST OF THIS CHAOTIC BATTLE OF ATTRITION.

AFTER ALL, "ANYTHING GOES" WHEN IT COMES TO WAR, RIGHT?

YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND USE KOGOE'S GLASSES WEAPON IF YOU WANT.

I'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT A STATE-OF-THE-ART PAIR CAN DO.

...I STILL WANT TO FIGHT FAIR.

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO RULE BREAKING ...

...TO KOGOE FOR ME.

I'M SORRY, TOSHU-SAI-SAN...

...BUT GIVE THIS BACK...

ICE

COLD

NO, JUSTICE WILL WIN.

I'M GOING TO GLARE AT YOUR VIOLATIONS ...

...WITH COLD EYES, ANONYMITY-SAN.

...SOME BORING SENSE OF JUSTICE ARE *HISTORIC-ALLY—*

I GUESS WELL ... THAT'LL WORK TOO. FULL-SCALE SURRENDERS MEANT TO UPHOLD...

READING!!

WHOOOOOOOSH

(LASIK!!)

To be continued!

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

WHAT THE HECK?

...I WAS BEATING HIM 40 TO 5!

BUT NOW...

UP UNTIL LAST WEEK'S ISSUE...

DID I MIX UP WHEN THE COMBINED ISSUE WOULD BE AND SKIP A CHAPTER?!

HOW DID IT GET SO CLOSE AGAIN?

Iroha Irohazaka
Chips: 23

Anonymity Requested
Chips: 22

CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 21: THOUSANDS DIE IN ORDER TO MAKE A SUCCESSFUL CODE

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

WELL, EITHER WAY...

...

THE 53 ENCODED CARDS...

...SERVE AS THE AXIS FOR LEAKY POKER.

ガッ ガッ SHUF SHUF ガッ

ガッ ガッ SHUF SHUF

HE CAN SOLVE CODES WITHOUT HIS GLASSES WEAPON.

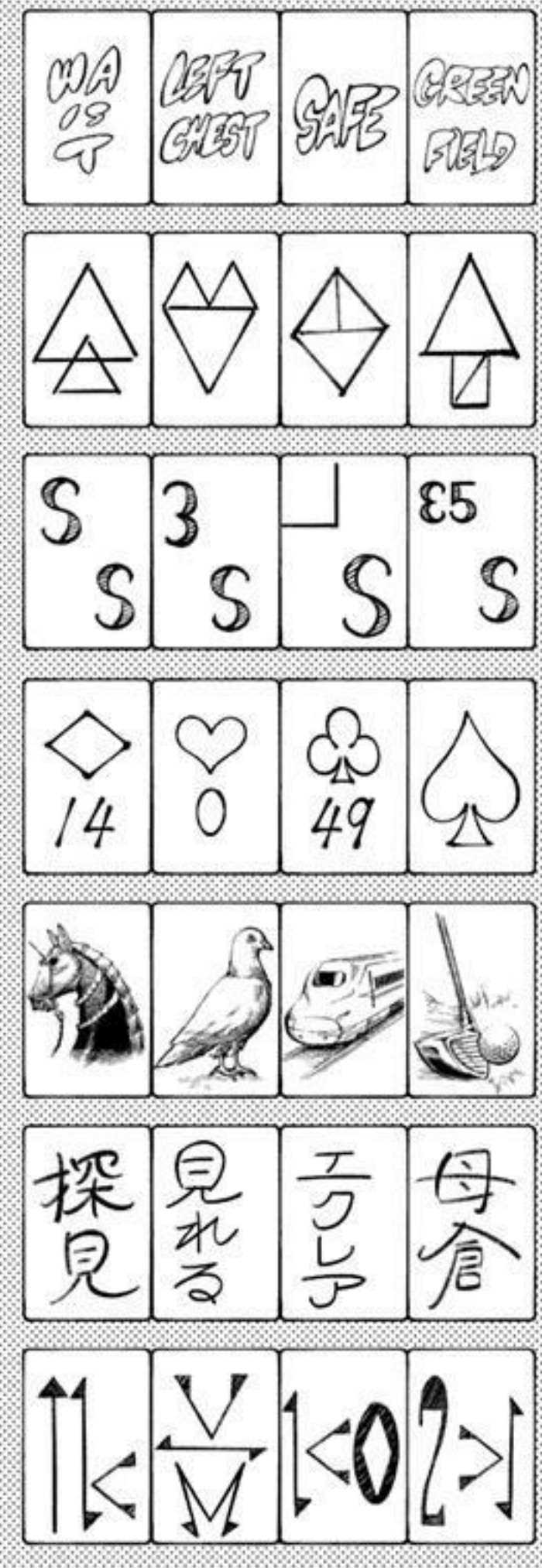
...ONE THING'S CLEAR NOW.

IN OTHER WORDS, THESE CARDS...

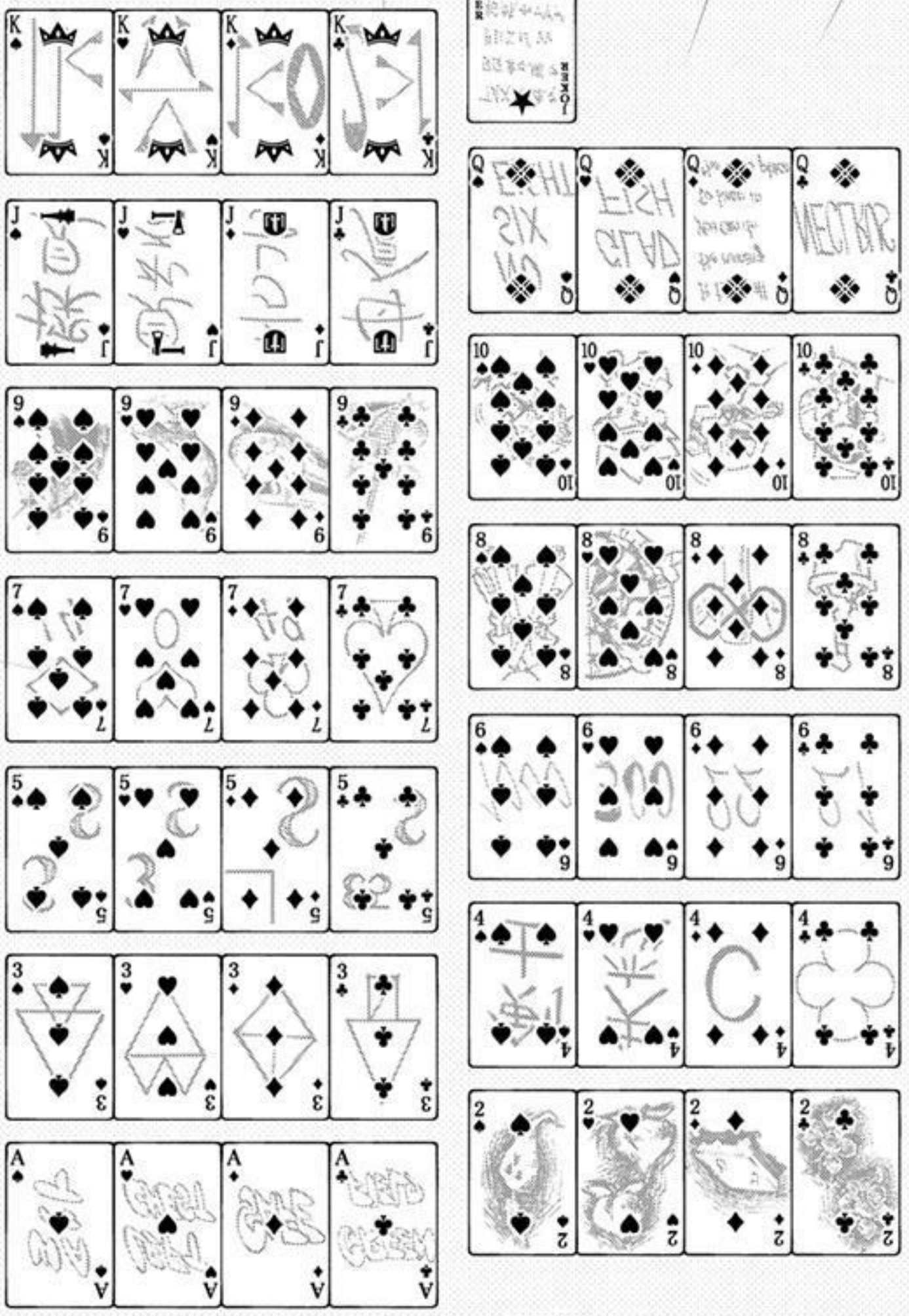
Q.24 ~ Q.76

Difficulty : ★★☆☆☆

LEAKY POKER







...ARE ACTUALLY THESE CARDS!!

SWIP

LEVEL POKER

Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆

Q.54 ~ Q.59

...IN LEAKY POKER, YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO SEE YOUR OWN HAND.

BUT EVEN IF THAT WERE THE CASE...

NOW THAT WE'RE PAST ROUND 35, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE'S ALREADY SOLVED EVERY CARD.

HE'S KOGOE'S FAVORITE FOR A REASON.

STILL, THE DIFFICULTY OF EACH INDIVIDUAL CODE IS LOW, AND A PATTERN CAN BE OBSERVED WHEN THEY'RE ORGANIZED.

THAT MEANS THE ONES YOU CAN'T FIGURE OUT CAN STILL BE SOLVED THROUGH PROCESS OF ELIMINATION.

TWO OF HEARTS, KING OF DIAMONDS, FOUR OF DIAMONDS, FOUR OF CLUBS, SEVEN OF SPADES. ONE PAIR...

...THAT SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

BUT THANKS TO MY GLASSES WEAPON, "PERSONAL PACK-AGE"...

...HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO READ MY FACE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HE'S GOT.

NOW THAT TOSHIISAI AND YOSAIMURA ARE OUT OF THE GAME...

SO I JUST...

SORRY, I CAN'T ACTUALLY SEE YOUR FACE OR ANYTHING...

...NO MATTER HOW MUCH I SQUINT.

!

YOU'RE WONDERING HOW I FIGURED OUT MY OWN CARDS...

...AREN'T YOU?

...LOOKED...

...AT EVERYONE ELSE'S FACES.

ONE OF THE CARDS TOSHUSAI-SAN USED...

...IN THE EIGHTH ROUND JOGGED AN OLD MEMORY.

THE *HANDWRITING* IS WHAT JOGGED MY MEMORY.

TAXIが道々
QQ車は端々
BUSだVV
船旅チャプザブ
ふわふわFLY

When the above is written out using the alphabet, only the five letters used in "joker" are missing.

THAT CODE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANYTHING BUT THE JOKER CARD.

THEN, AS I STARTED LOOKING AT THE OTHER CARDS WITH THAT IN MIND...

...THEY EACH STARTED TO JOG MY MEMORIES, BUT IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

IT MADE ME RELIVE MY TRAUMA...

...BUT IT ALSO HELPED ME REALIZE THAT SHE HAD TO BE THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THAT CODE.

IT WAS ALSO A LIPOGRAM ...

WA IS IT

Where the sword (spade) is located (1).

LEFT CHEST

Where the heart is located (1).

SAFE

Where jewels (diamonds) are located (1).

GREEN FIELD

Where clovers (clubs) are located (1).



A carrot that looks like a spade. "Ippon demo ninjin." "Ninjin" is carrot in Japanese and the first part of the word also means (2).



In Yamagata Prefecture, they liken peaches to hearts. And there are two (2) of them here.

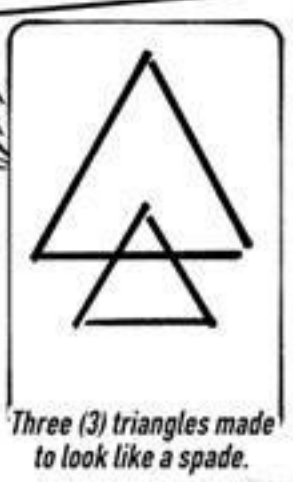


A double-layered (2) mochi that looks like a diamond.

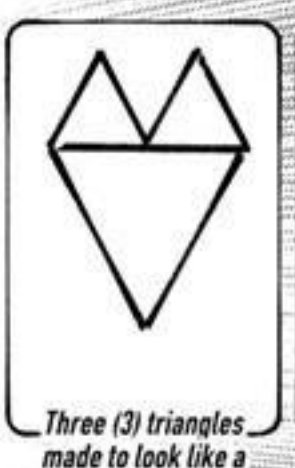


Two (2) bunches of grapes that look like clubs.

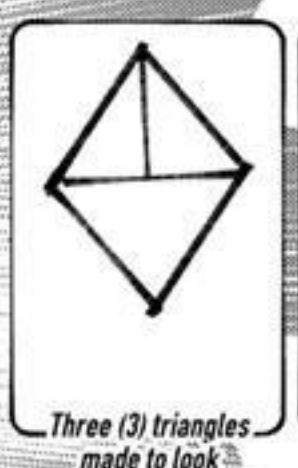




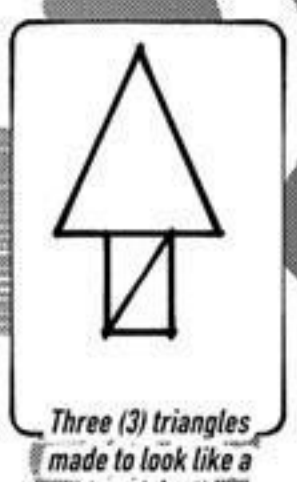
Three (3) triangles made to look like a spade.



Three (3) triangles made to look like a heart.



Three (3) triangles made to look like a diamond.



Three (3) triangles made to look like a tree (plant).

剣士

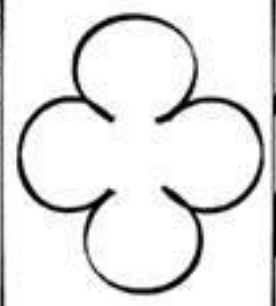
The card kanji means "swordsman." (spade), and the second kanji is read as "shi," which means four (4).

失恋

As in death of heart, death can be read as "shi" which means four (4).

C

The element symbol for diamond (C), and C is read as "shi" in Japanese, which can also mean four (4).



A four-leaf (4) clover.

A capital letter S from "spade," and the deformed five (5). The S is what the symbol ~ is based on.

A three meant to represent a heart from the side, and the deformed five (5).

A right-angle symbol has been used to create a square (diamond), and the deformed five (5).

Three and five have been merged to look like a deformed clover, while the S on the lower right is supposed be a deformed five (5).

1100

The binary digit eight drawn with a saji pen with zeros that look like spades. Subtract two and you get six (6).

300

Drawn with a brush. Brushes are made with hair, which represents life (heart). The first digit and the left half of the second digit look like "roku," the hiragana for six (6).

22

The quaternary digit ten drawn with a glass pen (mineral). Subtract four from that and you get six (6).

21

The quinary digit 11 drawn with a bamboo pen (plant). Subtract five from that and you get six (6).

14

7 + 7 = 14. The suit has been shifted 14 times using the Caesar cipher from spades to diamonds (7).

0

7 - 7 = 0. The suit has been shifted zero times using the Caesar cipher and remains hearts (7).

49

7 × 7 = 49. The suit has been shifted 49 times using the Caesar cipher from diamonds to clubs (7).

7 ÷ 7 = 1. The suit has been shifted once using the Caesar cipher from clubs to spades (7).

The two swords (spades) are shaped like the kanji for the number eight (8).

Arrows, which are often used in motifs where they pierce someone's heart, scoring a total of eight (8).

A stone axe. The rope and the sides of the stone look like a sideways eight (8).

A club buried in a pot "hachi," a pot, "hachi," which is also eight (8).

A horse conjures up an image of a stable, which is "kyu" or nine (9) in Japanese. It's equipped with jousting barding, which represents swords (spades).

Pigeon ("hato" in Japanese) sounds very similar to "heart." The kanji for pigeon also includes the kanji particle that is used to nine (9).

A train that represents a "daiyagramu" (train timetable in Japanese). "Daiya" sounds like diamonds. Shinkansen (bullet trains) are express (tokyu) trains, using the same "kyu" for nine (9).

A golf club and a golf ball. In Japanese the word for "ball" is "kyu," which sounds the same as nine (9).

10

Falling down is "tentou" in Japanese. "Ten" and "tou" both mean ten (10). "Supeedo," the Japanese word for spade, sounds similar to "subettou," dialect for "slip."

Dim sum is "tenshin" in Japanese. Split that and you get "ten" (10) and "shin" (heart).

Throwing a stone is "touseki" in Japanese. Split that and you get "tou," or ten (10), and stone, or diamond.

Traversing a mountain. In Japanese the word for "traverse" is "touha." When split, "tou" sounds the same as the word for ten (10), and "ha" sounds the same as the word for "leaf."

Below is the Japanese word for search, "tanken," which sounds the same as the word for dagger, which is meant to represent Ogier, the model for the jack of spades.

Katakana for éclair ("lightning" in French). The name of the god of thunder, Thor, sounds similar to the last part of Hector, the model for the jack of diamonds.

探見

見れる

エクレア

母倉

Above is the verb "mireru," which means "can see," a shortened version of "mirareru" that omits the "ra," thus meaning "the ra is needed," or "ra ga iru," which is supposed to represent "Ra Iru," the Japanese name for La Hire, the model for the jack of hearts.

The model for the jack of clubs was Lancelot, a knight of the Round Table. The kanji above was taken from Hahakura Ransurotto's name.

NO SIX EIGHT

Tchaikovsky's 68th opus. Queen of Spades.

GLAD FISH

GLAD FISH = sillaginoid, or "kisu" in Japanese. A fish is also the 12th Greek zodiac sign, and "kiss" is meant to represent a heart.

It takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place.

The red queen. Not the queen of hearts.

NECLRUS

A misspelling of the word "nucleus," which is represented by a kanji composed of the particle also used for "tree" or "wood" as well as a particle that is used to represent the 12th zodiac animal (boar).

Not an arrow, but a sign meant to represent a spear or a spade, along with the K from the alphabet.

Not an M or a fraction, but the shape of a heart and the K from the alphabet.

Not a zero, but a hollow diamond and the K from the alphabet.

Looks like 2 > 1, but is actually K x 2. K = king and K = kurobaa in Japanese (clover), or also kurabu in Japanese (club).

AS PART OF YOUR PREP AS A CLASS LEADING PRIVATE CANDIDATE ...

...HAVE YOU AT LEAST MEMORIZED THE CLASS'S SEATING ORDER?

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?

CAN YOU MATCH UP EVERYONE'S NAMES WITH THEIR FACES?

I GOT THEM TO LEAK ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT BOTH OUR HANDS...

...WITH A FAR GREATER DEGREE OF RELIABILITY THAN TOSHIISAI-SAN AND YOSAIMURA-SAN.

EACH PERSON CAN SOLVE FOUR CARDS, EVEN IF IT'S FROM A DISTANCE...

...SINCE THEY MADE THE CODES THEM-SELVES.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

In other words, aside from the four candidates, the other classmates in seat numbers 1 to 13 encrypted all the cards up to the joker based on that. Some of them were clearly screwing around, while others purposefully created unsolvable codes. But the overall difficulty level is ranked two. If 80 percent were to be solved, that would be enough...and since Iroha's stupidly honest nature pushed him to continually communicate with his classmates, he has a big advantage against someone like Anonymity Requested, who didn't even bother to memorize everyone's names.

?!

SHE'S GOING ALL IN AFTER HEARING THAT?!

IS ANONYMITY-SAN PANICKING ?!

THAT'S A TOTAL OF 22 CHIPS, YOU MORON!

A-ALL IN!

バチ

SMAK

...BEFORE HE GETS AN EVEN MORE ACCURATE READ ON THINGS!

NOW THAT MY CARDS HAVE BEEN LEAKED...

...I NEED TO FINISH THIS FAST...

...DOING CRAZY STUFF LIKE THIS IS MY ONLY WAY TO ACT LIKE I'M PANICKING.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT HIM TO THINK, DUMMY.

FUNNILY ENOUGH, BECAUSE OF MY GLASSES WEAPON...

...

...WHY DON'T YOU JUST FOLD AND END THIS 37TH ROUND ALREADY?

NOW THAT EVERYONE'S ACTING LIKE PURE SPECTATORS WHO'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS...

...THEN IT'LL BE MY TURN TO LOOK AT EVERY-ONE'S FACES WHILE YOU'RE BUSY WITH THAT.

IF YOU ASSUME THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKING AND TRY TO PROLONG THE GAME...

?!

CROUPIER YORO-KAWA!

CAN I SWITCH CARDS?

...BUT I NEVER SAID IT WAS AGAINST THE RULES EITHER, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

...

I DON'T REMEMBER SAYING EVERYONE COULD DO IT ONCE...

THAT'S THE RULE FOR CHANGING CARDS, ISN'T IT?

I'M ALLOWED TO, RIGHT, INSTRUCTOR NIKUEDA?

YOU DID SAY YOU'D ALLOW IT *ONCE*, AS LONG AS THE PLAYER'S GOING ALL IN...

IT'S AN EYE FOR AN EYE, A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH. IN OTHER WORDS, CHEATING AGAINST CHEATING...

...AND NOW THIS.

HE TRICKED ME, FAIR AND SQUARE! FIRST BY LOOKING AT THE FACES OF PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T EVEN IN THE GAME...

...

OH NO.

THIS IS BAD.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Why is Yorokawa the dealer instead of Instructor Nikueda? First off, because she's highly motivated to watch for Anonymity Requested's cheating after losing to her in the second round...but it's also because Yorokawa's the only one who didn't create any cards due to her seating number. And in a very Shibori-chan-esque manner, she's been made to participate somehow. Yorokawa knows what each card really is due to her role, but since she didn't create any of them, her face will be harder to read than others. (Not to mention the fact that she's wearing a hat.)

?!

...I'LL ONLY LOOK AT YOUR FACE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE BATTLE.

HOWEVER, ANONYMITY-SAN...

...IF YOU AGREE TO TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES WEAPON...

ON THE CONTRARY, IT MADE ME REALLY RESPECT YOU.

ALTHOUGH I FEEL BAD, I DON'T CONSIDER IT TO BE CHEATING.

...AS DID YOUR PLAN TO USE ME TO GET RID OF TOSHUSAI-SAN AND YOSAIMURA-SAN.

DON'T MISUNDER-STAND. YOUR CARD SWITCH IMPRESSED ME, OF COURSE...

AND THAT'S WHAT'S ALLOWED YOU TO SURVIVE THIS FAR...

BUT, *IROHA-ZAKA*...

SO THAT'S THE PATH YOU'VE CHOSEN...

I SEE.

...THROUGH A DIFFER-ENCE IN NUMBERS.

THE ONLY THING I CONSIDER TO BE CHEATING IS THAT POKER FACE OF YOURS.

I'M NOT CHEEKY ENOUGH TO TRY TO WIN IN A VIOLENT MANNER...

JUST YOU WATCH.

I CAN FIGHT FAIR TOO WHEN I WANT.

...

NO.

WHAT'S WRONG, MORON?

GOT A PROB-LEM?

HUH?

KLINK カラン

I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW THIS IS MY *FOURTH TIME*!

I'M SWITCHING THREE CARDS OUT AND GOING ALL IN!

YOU HERE TO MAKE SOME BANK OR WHAT?!

BRING IT ON!

IT'S A SHOWDOWN!

THIS IS GONNA BE ELEMENTARY.

END

KOGOE

...IT CEASED TO MATTER WHO COMES OUT ON TOP. I'VE ALREADY WON.

FROM THE MOMENT THAT ROKAKU YOSAIMURA, WHOSE IDEALS DIFFER FROM MINE, LOST...

CAN'T SAY THAT TOO LOUDLY, THOUGH ...

IT'S FINE, CG.

WE'VE ALREADY ACQUIRED ENOUGH DATA.

THE VIDEO CUT OUT AGAIN, PROFESSOR KOGOE.

STILL, I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D ACTUALLY REMOVE HER PERSONAL PACKAGE...

...I WAS ABLE TO MAKE UP WITH KYORA-SAN...

NOT AT ALL! THANKS TO IROHA OVERDOING IT...

I SEE, I SEE...

IN THAT CASE, IROHA IROHAZAKA IS CERTAIN TO END UP WITH SOME EGG ON HIS FACE.

...WHICH ALLOWED US TO FINALLY PUT THE BRAND-NEW WEAPON INTO MASS PRODUCTION.

I...

NOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO INVITE THE CIPHER SOLDIERS FROM CLASS 1-A...

...INTO THE FIRST CYBERBRAIN WORLD WAR.

...WISH I COULD SAY THIS ONE LOUDLY.

To be continued!

BWAP

BWAP

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

YOU'VE GOT SOME GREAT MOVES.

THEY CALL THAT BREAK DANCING, RIGHT?

TOK

BWAP

DESPITE THE FACT THAT YOU DEFEATED US IN LEAKY POKER...

BAM

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE DROPPING OUT OF CIPHER ACADEMY, IROHAZAKA-KUN?

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

IROHA IROHAZAKA

Anonymity Requested

Class 1-A's only orthodox beauty

Kyora Toshusai

A noble villainess with a conscience

Rokaku Yosaimura

Admiration monster

...AND BECAME CLASS LEADING PRIVATE IN SUCH A HIGHLY BRILLIANT MANNER?

...I DON'T FEEL LIKE I REALLY BEAT YOU.

FUMP

GIVING EVERYTHING TO THE PERSON WHO WINS IS NO DIFFERENT FROM WAR.

BESIDES, CONSIDERING THE WAY I WON...

SMAK

...IT WASN'T NECESSARILY A VICTORY VOID OF SUSPICION.

SHF

OH REALLY? WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

JUST TELL ME ONE THING BEFORE YOU GO...

I'M THE ONE WHO WANTS TO DROP OUT, AFTER LOSING TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

BUT IF YOU'RE ACTUALLY LEAVING, THAT'S A RELIEF.

...

...BUT HOW WAS THAT POSSIBLE?

NGH...

IROHAZAKA, YOU SAID YOU READ ALL YOUR CLASSMATES' EXPRESSIONS...

...AT THE SAME TIME...

...AT EVERY-ONE ELSE'S FACES.

HECK, IT'D BE EASIER TO DECODE ALL 53 CARDS.

WE'RE NOT SAYING YOU CHEATED.

BUT THAT'S NO SIMPLE FEAT, EVEN FOR US.

...

AS I MENTIONED TO EN-CHAN AND YUGATA-SAN...

YUGATA-SAN PULLED IT OUT OF ME THROUGH TORTURE THOUGH...

!

A REFUGEE CAMP...?

ONCE, AFTER A TOURNAMENT, WE VISITED A REFUGEE CAMP.

I WAS IN THE CHEER-LEADING CLUB IN MIDDLE SCHOOL ...

...AND WE USED TO GO ON A LOT OF TRIPS OVERSEAS.

THAT'S SUR-PRISING.

I FIGURED YOU WERE THE TYPE WHO KNEW NOTHING OF THE BATTLE-FIELD.

YOU KNOW, IT'S THE CHEERLEADING CLUB'S JOB TO CHEER PEOPLE ON.

IT'S A MORE MEANINGFUL WAY TO SPEND OUR TIME THAN SHOPPING AND SIGHTSEEING, RIGHT?

OUR FACULTY ADVISER WAS INFLUENCED BY A POLITICAL CARTOON, SO THAT'S THE POLICY HE WENT WITH.

HEH HEH HEH... THEY DID CONSIDER THAT, OF COURSE.

SO ONLY BOYS WERE ALLOWED TO GO.

WASN'T IT STILL DANGEROUS, THOUGH?

SEEMS A BIT RISKY FOR A MIDDLE SCHOOLER'S VOLUNTEER WORK...

WELL, IT WASN'T EXACTLY A BATTLE-FIELD.

THE WAR THERE HAD ALREADY BEEN OVER FOR A WHILE.

...I THINK THAT WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE.

AND SINCE THEY ALL ENDED UP GETTING BRUTALLY MURDERED BY THIEVES...

AND TO KEEP THE THUGS WHO KILLED MY CLASSMATES IN GOOD SPIRITS UNTIL I GOT RESCUED ...

...I JUST KEPT HAPPILY DANCING.

BUT I WAS THE ONLY ONE...

...WHO THEY DIDN'T KILL... *BECAUSE I'M A GIRL.*

GUESS I JUST BARELY CROSSED THE FINE LINE BETWEEN DYING AND GOING TO HEAVEN AND SUFFERING THROUGH A LIVING HELL.

...IS ELEMENTARY...

...AND A VITAL PART OF LIFE.

THAT'S WHY I'M GOOD AT READING PEOPLE'S EXPRES-SIONS.

COMPARED TO THE SAVAGES WHO I COULDN'T EVEN COMMUNI-CATE WITH...

...READING THE EXPRES-SIONS OF MY CLASS-MATES...

...WITH THOSE CIPHER SOLDIERS WHO WERE FORCED TO DANCE ON THE BATTLEFIELD?

IS THAT ALSO WHY YOU EMPATHIZED...

YOU CAN'T READ A ROOM, AND YET YOU'RE GOOD AT READING EXPRES-SIONS.

SEEMS LIKE YOU USED TO THINK THE SAME THING ABOUT YOUR-SELF.

YEAH... MAYBE I'LL CALL UPON THAT POLITICAL CARTOON-IST...

...WHO TOLD ME I'D BE SAFE HERE...

...AND TRICKED ME INTO ENROLLING.

SINCE I WASN'T ABLE TO KEEP MY PROMISE TO KOGOE...

...I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO SOMETHING FOR HER WITHOUT THE HIDDEN FORTUNE.

YEAH. AND THAT SELF-CENTERED EMPATHY...

...IS ALSO WHY I'M DROPPING OUT OF CIPHER ACADEMY.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR DREAM...

...OF ENDING ALL WARS?

EVEN IF IT WAS JUST SOMETHING YOU SPOUTED OFF...

...IT WAS STILL ENOUGH TO MOVE THE HEARTS OF YOUR CLASSMATES, NOT TO MENTION MYSELF.

DON'T YOU WANT TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THAT?

WHEN I READ MY CLASSMATES' EXPRESSIONS...

...DURING LEAKY POKER...

...IT RECONFIRMED TO ME...

...WHY THEY'RE ALL ENROLLED AT CIPHER ACADEMY.

IN THE END, THE VOTE BEFORE THE GAME WAS EVERYTHING.

I CAME HERE WITHOUT KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT CIPHER ACADEMY...

FORGET CLASS LEADING PRIVATE— I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE AT THIS SCHOOL.

I SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

AH!

RIP

INSTRUCTOR NIKUEDA GAVE ME THIS SO I COULD TELL YOU IT'S REJECTED.

ANYWAY...

...THIS NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL IS INVALID.

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU TRULY DON'T UNDER-STAND, SO ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN.

NO DOCUMENT AT THIS ACADEMY IS CONSIDERED OFFICIAL...

...UNLESS WRITTEN IN CODE.

LIKE THESE.

Q.77

Difficulty : ★★★★☆



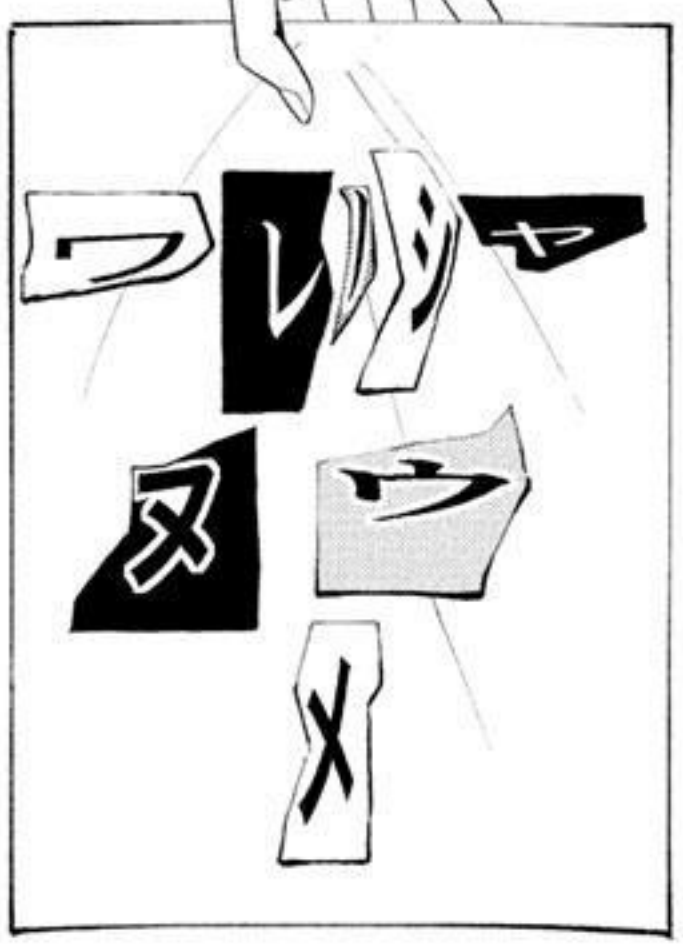
*The top kanji is 元 upside down, and the bottom kanji is 友 mirrored.

*The cutout syllables, from left to right, top to bottom, read as follows:
wa re no shi ya
nu u
me
(the eyes that sew my field of vision)

*The following characters in Romaji read as follows:
ai aru ou (a king with love)
ei chi e (to Eichi)
ji ei kei ei (self-protection guard)

Q.79

Difficulty : ★★★☆☆



Q.78

Difficulty : ★★☆☆☆



VOTING BALLOTS.

SINCE WE WERE THE CANDIDATES, WE DIDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE...

...BUT THAT ISN'T TRUE NOW THAT THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE SELECTION IS OVER, RIGHT?

?

?

?

WHAT ARE THESE?

IF YOU THINK...

...THE VOTES WERE EVERY-THING, IROHA-KUN...

...THEN SOLVE THESE...

...AS A PARTING GIFT AND DECODE WHO WE VOTED FOR.

OF COURSE, IF YOU CAN'T EVEN SOLVE THESE CODES...

...WELL THEN...

...YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE HERE.

GRRR! THOSE ARE FIGHTING WORDS, ANONYMITY REQUESTED-SAN!

FWAH

THERE'S NO WAY THE DAYS I SPENT AT CIPHER ACADEMY...

...WERE ALL FOR NOTHING!

THE PRONUNCIATION OF ALPHABET LETTERS HAVE BEEN TRANSPOSED INTO JAPANESE ...

HOWEVER, "JIEI" ISN'T "G-A," BUT "Z-A"... MY OWN PERSONAL HABIT MAKES ME WANT TO READ IT AS "ZED," THOUGH!!

ICE

*Lined up like this, the unrelated katakana spells out "Irohazaka."

COLD

THE LINE "THE EYES THAT SEW MY FIELD OF VISION" SEEMS LIKE A STRANGE SENTENCE AT FIRST...

...BUT THE CUTOFF PARTS OF EACH SYLLABLE MATCH UP TO EACH OTHER! AND IF YOU LOOK AT THE KATAKANA LIKE AN ANAGRAM, IT ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE A SINGLE WORD...

"MOTO" IS UPSIDE DOWN, SO IT MUST MEAN "SAKAMOTO"! AND "TOMO" IS MIRRORED, SO IT MUST MEAN "TOMO-NO-URA"!

SAKAMOTO AND TOMO-NO-URA, HUH? MAKES ME THINK OF THAT INCIDENT WITH THE SHIP...

READING !!

*The ship in the historical incident was called *Irohamaru*.

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY...

...AND SOME OF THEM WE CAN'T REVEAL TO ANYONE.

IT'S TRUE THAT WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN DREAMS ...

...ON EVERY-THING WE LEAK TO YOU.

...WE WANT YOU TO BE THE LEADING CHEERLEADER WHO CAN PICK UP...





IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I'M THE WEAKEST MEMBER OF THIS CLASS...

...SO I'M PROUD TO SERVE...

...AS YOUR SHIELD AT THE FOREFRONT.

Iroha Irohazaka
Class 1-A leading private

PLEASE GUIDE, ENCOURAGE...

...AND TEACH ME...

SOME OF OUR DREAMS MAY CLASH, AND AS YOU KNOW, I'M AN UNRELIABLE LEADER...

...BUT NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO GET HUNG UP ON FACTIONAL DISPUTES.

...THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF CIPHER ACADEMY.

CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 22: ALWAYS APPROACH A CODE AS IF IT'S YOUR FIRST

WHILE YOU WERE WAITING, WARS HAVE BEEN BREAKING OUT ALL OVER THE WORLD, CAUSING THE VALUE OF MORG TO SKYROCKET.

CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, THOUGH...

NOW THAT WE'VE FINALLY GOT ALL OUR CLASS LEADING PRIVATES ASSEMBLED...

...IT'S TIME TO BEGIN EXCAVATING THE 50 BILLION MORG FORTUNE AMASSED FROM WAR DAMAGES.

Kogoe Horagatoge

Class 1-M solo soldier

WHAT SORT OF A CODE IS THAT?

KLINK

KOGOE-SAN?

...AND CRACK, CRACK, CRACK ALL THE CODES YOU CAN.

THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE OF CLASS 1-A IS A BOY NAMED IROHA IROHAZAKA.

GET ALONG WITH EVERYONE, TREASURE EACH OTHER'S LIVES...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN BY "BOY."

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN BY "TREASURE EACH OTHER."

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN BY "LIVES."

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN BY "GET ALONG."

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN BY "EVERYONE."

Shitai Kubinashi
Class 1-E leading private

Shakunage Hakanage
Class 1-F leading private

Invalides Yonakiuguisu
Class 1-C leading private

Tonbo Rikukeito
Class 1-B leading private

Seppun Zakuroguchi
Class 1-D leading private

To be continued!

CHAK ガチャ

WELL, KEEP IT UP AND PROTECT US...

...BOY-DONO.

HEH...

SCRAMBLING TO STUDY NOW THAT YOU'VE BECOME THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE, IROHAZAKA-KUN?

CIPHER ACADEMY

I SAID SOME-THING BAD AGAIN.

GAHHH...

Chapter 23:
TOO MANY WARS SPOIL THE BATTLESHIP-FUND BROTH

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Outro

...

PLEASE DON'T SAY "COCKY THINGS."

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YUKAKO?

I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO IROHAZAKA-KUN FOR THE COCKY THINGS YOU SAID.

IT'S AMAZING YOU THINK YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN FORGIVEN.

NORMAL PEOPLE CAN'T APOLOGIZE WITH ZERO EMOTION, TAYU-SAN.

?

YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?

YOU SHOULD JUST APOLOGIZE LIKE I DID AND HAVE HIM FORGIVE YOU.

LET'S SETTLE THINGS ONCE AND FOR ALL...

IF THAT'S THE CASE OMOMURO-SAN...

!

SHF ガラ

LIM...

...OR A DANCE BATTLE!

...THROUGH EITHER A CODE BATTLE...



NO.
I DON'T THINK I LOST.
HEH HEH...
I WON, DIDN'T I, OMOMURO-SAN?
!
...ALL THE THINGS I SAID TO YOU.
BUT I ADMIT THAT I WAS PREJUDICED.
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO TAKE BACK...
NOT EVEN I CAN GET YUKAKO TO ADMIT THAT SHE LOST AT SOMETHING...

I'M SORRY.

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE SPOKEN LIKE I DID...

...TOWARD SOMEONE WHO ACTED LIKE A FEMALE STUDENT IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.

THANK YOU.

HOW-EVER, THERE'S ONE OTHER MATTER...

I DON'T FORGIVE YOU FOR THAT.

GUESS THAT SETTLES THINGS!

OKAY, I FORGIVE YOU!

SORRY FOR BEING DIFFICULT AND ASKING FOR A DRAW.

IT'S A PASSWORD RATHER THAN A CODE.

IT ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN SOLVE, IROHAZAKA-KUN.

虚無の果てに夢を見ろ ×
暗号解けたなら言える台詞 ×
穢れぬ蒼れ ×
ひねもす察知 ×
隠し部屋 ×

*Witness a dream at the ends of nothingness X
If you've solved the puzzle, there's a line you can say X
Unassailable Honor X
Inference, all day long X
A hidden room X

A PASS-WORD?

AH! NO, NO, NO!

I WANT TO SOLVE THE CODE ON MY OWN!

BWAP

...REGARD-ING THE PANGRAM THAT WE SHELVED—

!!

V.R.!

...FROM A.R. TO V.R....

YES, IT'S A PASSWORD MEANT TO UPDATE GLASSES WEAPONS...

"WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE CLASS M METAVERSE ONCE WE'RE BETTER ACQUAINTED.

...THE PASSWORD WOULD ALLOW YOU TO DIVE INTO THE *DIGITAL* CIPHER ACADEMY.

...WHICH WILL THEN ALLOW YOU TO ENTER THE METAVERSE WHERE CLASS M IS LOCATED.

IN OTHER WORDS, IF WE WERE TO CALL THIS THE *PAPER AND PENCIL* CIPHER ACADEMY...

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF I REALLY HAD KNOWN SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

TH-THAT'S REALLY DANGER-OUS...

YOU ACTUALLY REVEALED A WEAPON PASS-WORD TO AN OUT-SIDER?

...THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY REASON TO HIDE MY INTENT.

I WANTED TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH INTEL YOU HAD SINCE YOU WERE SPENDING TIME WITH HORAGATOGE ...

...BUT ONCE ONE OF THE GLASSES WEAPONS FELL INTO MY LADY'S HANDS...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The dilemma that arises when adjusting strategy based on information gained from breaking a code reveals that you've broken the code is known as the Conventry conundrum, and Yukako Omomuro sort of applied that with what she did. Hmph... I desperately hid the fact that my new state-of-the-art weapon was a glasses type, and she doesn't trust me one bit.

IT'S FINE. THAT PASSWORD THAT EVERY MEMBER OF THE TOSHUSAI GROUP KNOWS...

...ONLY HAS THE POWER TO OPEN THE CLASS M DOOR AT WORST.

THAT'S ABSURD! PLEASE BE QUIET, YUGATA-SAN!

SHE SIMPLY WOULD HAVE ERASED YOU.

TRUE POWER...?

AND EVEN HORAGATOGE HERSELF, THE ONE WHO DEVELOPED IT, CAN'T FIND IT.

UNLESS SOMEONE MANAGES TO UNIFY THEM ALL, THAT WEAPON WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO REVEAL ITS *TRUE POWER*.

PASSWORDS MEANT TO BE USED IN THE UPDATE WERE DISPERSED IN GLASSES WEAPONS FOR RISK MANAGE-MENT.

THERE ARE FIVE REMAINING THAT WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND.

?

IROHA-ZAKA-KUN?

FWSH

!!

OH MY.

NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU MEEKLY WAIT BEHIND A BOY.

YOU'VE DEVOLVED INTO AN ADORABLE HEROINE...

...HAVEN'T YOU, YUKAKO?

NO!!

IS THAT A BOY?

...

THEY KNOW EACH OTHER?

GEEZ, YOU (ALL) HAVE BEEN LIVING IN A PRETTY HARSH ENVIRONMENT.

Girls are normally two to a room.

ALL THE BOYS HAVE TO SLEEP IN THE SAME ROOM IN THE DORM...

...SO THERE SHOULDN'T BE A MALE STUDENT AT CIPHER ACADEMY WHO I DON'T KNOW...

THIS IS WHO I AM...

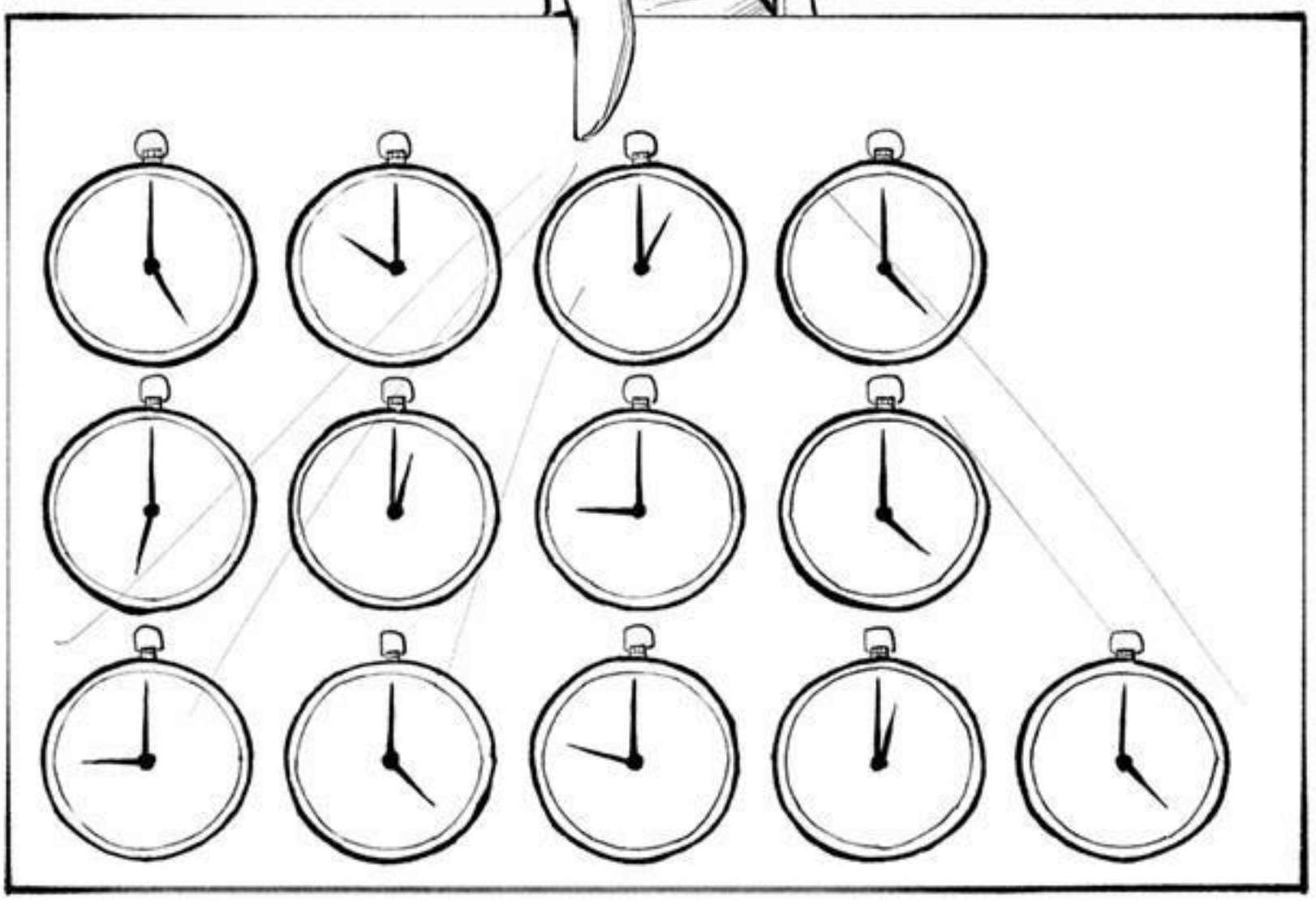
...IROHA IROHA-ZAKA-KUN.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER I'M A BOY OR A GIRL.

IT'S LIKE THE MOVIE *THE FISH TALE*.

Q.80

Difficulty : ★★★★☆



*Note: Wearing geta (Japanese sandals) is a phrase that means you have help in getting an answer.



...

IT WOULDN'T MAKE SENSE OTHERWISE, RIGHT?

HOW ELSE WOULD YOU GET SO MANY UNIQUE PEOPLE IN ONE CLASS?

WHA—?!

NO. TUITION ASIDE...

...EVERYONE NORMALLY HAS TO TAKE AN ENTRANCE EXAM.

...YOU GOT THEM TO ELECT YOU AS THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE, ISN'T IT?

AND THAT'S ALSO HOW...

HOW *BOYISH* OF YOU, IROHAZAKA-KUN.

HEH HEH... SO YOU WEREN'T EVEN AWARE OF THE FACT THAT YOU RECEIVED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT?

BWAP

...IS SOMETHING I CAN'T TURN A BLIND EYE TO...

...BUT INSULTING CLASS I-A...

MY FOOLISH LACK OF AWARENESS IS ONE THING...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Here are some initial plot details for people who started reading the manga this week. Cipher Academy is basically a school meant for 15-year-old girls to study code breaking, but since all-girl schools are behind the times, "one boy no one cares about" has been added to each class. I didn't have to take a test when I was scouted for class M either.

ICE COLD READING

(RARE) !!

...AS THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE!

1	A α	13	N ν
2	B β	14	Ξ ξ
3	Γ γ	15	O ο
4	Δ δ	16	Π π
5	E ε	17	P ρ
6	Z ζ	18	Σ ς
7	H η	19	T τ
8	Θ θ	20	Υ υ
9	I ι	21	Φ φ
10	K κ	22	X χ
11	Λ λ	23	Ψ ψ
12	M μ	24	Ω ω

SO THESE CLOCKS AREN'T 12-HOUR CLOCKS, BUT 24-HOUR CLOCKS!

IF I WANTED TO REPLACE THE NUMBERS WITH CHARACTERS INSTEAD OF THE ALPHABET (26 CHARACTERS) OR HIRAGANA (46–51 CHARACTERS), I'D HAVE TO USE THE GREEK ALPHABET!

...YET THERE ARE HOUR HANDS THAT AREN'T POINTING TO EXACT HOURS. ABOUT HALF ARE POINTING TO THE CENTER POINT IN BETWEEN HOURS!

THE MINUTE HAND OF EACH CLOCK IS POINTING AT ZERO MINUTES...

...BECOMES THIS!

WHICH TRANSLATES TO...

10 20 2 9
13 1 18 9
18 9 19 1 9

κ υ β ι
ν α ς ι
ς ι τ α ι

IN OTHER WORDS, THIS...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

There are 24-hour clocks such as the one at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, which one could say is the "head temple" of time-related things. Each cycle is 24 hours, so if you look at it like a normal clock, it'll make your brain bug out. Only the English alphabet has 26 characters—each language is unique. For example, the German alphabet has 30 characters.

A HEADLESS CORPSE!

TSK TSK TSK TSK

CLOSE. SHITAI KUBINASHI.

IT'S THE NAME OF THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE OF CLASS I-E— ME.

*Note: The name Kubinashi Shitai (in Japanese name order) sounds exactly like the phrase "headless corpse."

BUT I SUPPOSE THIS DOES MAKE YOU QUALIFIED, MORE OR LESS.

I FEEL BAD THAT ALL THE BOYS HAVE TO SLEEP IN THE SAME ROOM ANYWAY ...

RIGHT, YUKAKO ?

THIS PERSON'S...

...A CLASS LEADING PRIVATE?

NGH...

How was I supposed to know that?

WHY, FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE *LEADERS' PEACE CONFERENCE.*

AT THE CONFERENCE, WE'LL GATHER UP THE LEADERS FROM CLASSES A TO F...

...

QUALIFIED FOR WHAT ?

...HAVE THEM UNITE THEIR SIX PASSWORDS...

...AND UPDATE THE GLASSES WEAPONS...

...SO THAT WE CAN FINALLY MINE THE 50 BILLION MORG'S WORTH OF CRYPTO-CURRENCY...

...SLUMBERING WITHIN THE CIPHER ACADEMY METAVERSE.

...WERE ORIGINALLY MEANT TO BE PICKAXES FOR THIS...!

OH, YEAH... KOGOE'S GLASSES WEAPONS...

...HALF THE WARS IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW.

AFTER ALL, IF I HAD THAT KIND OF MONEY, I COULD END...

IT'S WITHIN THE META-VERSE...

...OF THE DIGITAL CIPHER ACADEMY ?!

THE REMNANTS OF THE M FUND...

THE 50 BILLION MORG PRIZE MONEY FOR THE SCHOOL'S BEST CODE BREAKERS!!

OH YES, I'M AWARE OF THAT, IROHAZAKA-KUN.

OH! WELL, FORGET THE PASSWORDS FOR A MOMENT...

I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN RID OF THE THING THIS WHOLE PLAN HINGES UPON—MY GLASSES WEAPON.

...THAT OMOMURO-SAN'S GROUP COULDN'T EVEN GET AHOLD OF?

BUT WHY DO THE OTHER 'CLASSES' LEADERS' HAVE THE OTHER PASSWORDS...

KOGOE'S PROBABLY PULLING THE STRINGS BEHIND THE SCENES...

!!

YUKAKO.

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE ONE WHO YOU *CURRENTLY* SERVE. IN OTHER WORDS...

THUS, A GUIDE IS CURRENTLY ON THEIR WAY TO THE *ORIGINAL AUTHORITY* OF THE CLASS A PASSWORD.

I'M THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE OF CLASS I-C...

I...

...INVALIDES YONAKI-UGUISU!

To be continued!

WHO ARE YOU, LOST LITTLE GIRL...

FWIP

...AND WHY DO YOU KEEP TAILING ME?

CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 24:
TRIPLE CODE ALLIANCE



Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

LEADING PRIVATE OF CLASS 1-C...

...INVALIDES YONAKIUGUISU!

TEP

FWSH

OH MY.

HOW POLITE OF YOU...

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO THE LEADERS' PEACE CONFERENCE.

PLEASE ACCEPT IT.

Q.81

Difficulty : ★★★☆☆

☆Everyone is lying about one thing☆

B: June 6, early morning, cherry blossom garden
C: June 6, after school, pool
D: June 9, early morning, pool





WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS, SHUTAN?

IT'S CLEARLY A TRAP...

HM...

WHY NOT JUST GO?

IT ALIGNS WITH YOUR GOAL, DOESN'T IT?

YOU DON'T WANT IROHA IROHAZAKA...

...TO END UP LIKE SHUTAN, DO YOU?

2-D

POP

*Congratulations on becoming Class Leading Private

CONGRATU-LATIONS ON BECOMING CLASS LEADING PRIVATE, IROHA!

WELL, I CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, BUT...

I ALWAYS BELIEVED FROM THE BEGINNING YOU'D BE THE ONE TO WIN!

YOU READ THE LOVE LETTER I SENT YOU, RIGHT?

WAS IT OKAY? DID ANYONE ELSE SEE IT?

IT'S FINE. I WAS WITH OMOMURO-SAN AND YUGATA-SAN...

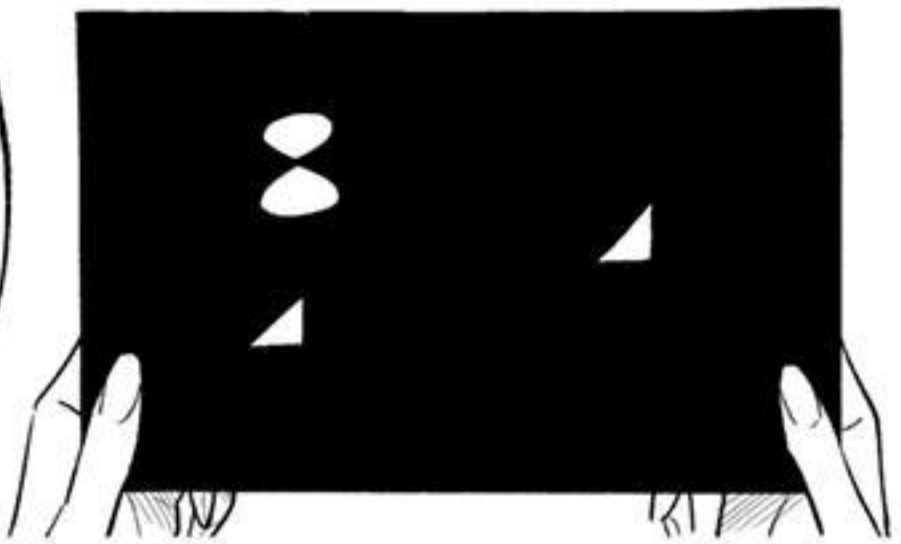
...BUT AS SOON AS TOSHUSAI-SAN'S NAME CAME UP, THEY RAN OFF AS FAST AS THEY COULD...

HUH, SO TAYUTAN ACTUALLY RUNS...

Q.82

Difficulty : ★★☆☆☆

AFTER THAT, I GOT THIS CODE...



...FROM SHITAI KUBINASHI, THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE OF I-E.

GOOD! NOW TELL ME HOW YOU BROKE MY CODE.

I LOVE HEARING ABOUT YOUR CODE BREAKING!

OKAY. BUT BEFORE THAT...

...I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU, KOGOE. DO YOU MIND?

GO AHEAD! ASK ME WHATEVER YOU WANT!

IN THE END, IT SEEMS LIKE OVER A THIRD OF MY CLASSMATES HAD GLASSES WEAPONS.

WHO WAS YOUR TRUE TOP CANDIDATE?

A CONGRATULATORY GIFT?

I PREPARED A CONGRATULATORY GIFT FOR YOU SINCE YOU WERE MY MAIN CANDIDATE, IROHA!

WAH! WAIT!

SEE YA!

IF YOU CAN'T ANSWER RIGHT AWAY, THEN JUST FORGET IT.

...AND MANAGED TO FIND THEIR *CURRENT LOCATION!*

BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT TOO LOUDLY...

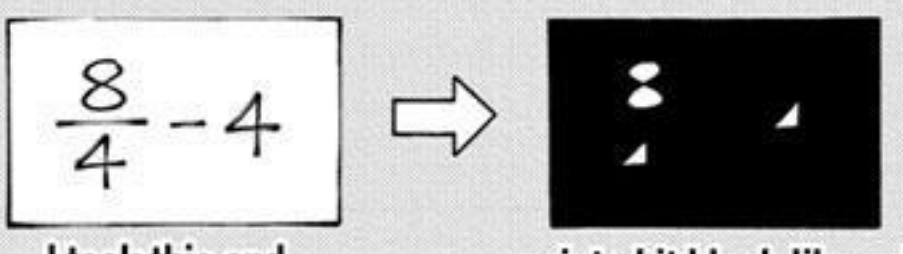
LOOK. IT'S THE "BATTLEFIELD DANCER" YOU'VE BECOME SO INFATUATED WITH!

I REALLY OVERDID IT— OUT OF PURE KINDNESS, MIND YOU...

Expanded Edition!



Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons



I took this and...

...painted it black like so!

The pattern used in this example is 2-4 and therefore class 2-D. Iroha's the only one I wait for in empty classrooms. I suppose the key to this is guessing what the filled-in fraction part is and figuring it out based on that.

YOU ALREADY KNOW I ONCE WORKED AT KYORA-SAN'S COMPANY AS A TECH ADVISER, RIGHT?

ALL RIGHT THEN, WHERE SHOULD I BEGIN? IN ANY CASE...

SWF

WHAT? REALLY?

AND YET YOU STILL CALL HER STUFF LIKE "NOBLE VILLAINESS" AND "MERCHANT OF DEATH"?

...

TIGHT-LIPPED— ER, LOYAL AS EVER, I SEE...

YEAH, I GUESS.

ANYWAY, DURING MY TIME AT THE MILITARY CORPORATION KICK-ATTACK PLANNING...

...I DEVELOPED GLASSES WEAPONS MEANT FOR GAINING THE EDGE IN INFORMATION WARS.

WEAPONS THAT CAN MAKE PEOPLE HEROES WITHOUT HAVING TO FIGHT!

YOU MEAN YOU CREATED THEM WHILE YOU WERE STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?

THAT'S SUR-PRISING.

YOU REALLY ARE A GENIUS, KOGOE.

THANKS— NOW TELL ME SOME-THING I DON'T KNOW.

EVEN WE GENIUSES HAVE OUR PROBLEMS...

PROBLEMS LIKE BEING TOO MUCH OF A GENIUS FOR ONE'S OWN GOOD.

NOM

...WE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP ALL OF THEM.

IT FILLED ME WITH DESPAIR. AT THAT RATE, EVEN IF WE MANAGED TO WIN A WAR...

I ALSO ONLY EVER GOT HALF OF THE BUDGET I REQUESTED.

KICK-ATTACK PLANNING DIDN'T TRUST ME SINCE I WAS AN OUTSIDER...

...SO THEY NEVER GAVE ME AUTONOMY OVER MY CREATIONS. TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, THEY LIMITED THE DEVELOPMENT WITH SIX PASSWORDS.

THEN I GOT RECRUITED BY NOHIME-SAN'S FAMILY. THEY ASKED ME TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES...

...AT THE NEWLY ESTAB-LISHED CIPHER ACADEMY.

I ACQUIRED ONE OF THE PASSWORDS BY BECOMING FRIENDS WITH KYORA-SAN...

...BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH TO EVEN GET ME HALFWAY TO MY GOAL.

OH...

IS THAT WHERE THE LEADING PRIVATES FROM THE OTHER CLASSES COME IN...?

I'D BE ABLE TO VIRTUALLY TEST THE GLASSES WEAPONS...

...AND ALSO *RELEASE THE FIVE REMAINING LOCKS.*

IT HURT TO BETRAY KYORA-SAN, BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS AN INVITATION WORTH TAKING A GAMBLE ON.

AFTER ALL, THE 50 BILLION MORG REWARD WOULD COVER ALL DEVELOPMENT COSTS.

...CLASSES B AND F WERE SELECTING THEIR LEADERS.

EXACTLY. I HAD EACH CLASS ANALYZE ONE PASSWORD.

WHILE YOUR CLASS WAS LEVELING UP WITH THE GLASSES WEAPONS...

...WHO FIGURED OUT THE BATTLEFIELD DANCER'S LOCATION.

IT EXCEEDED MY EXPECTA-TIONS AS WELL, BUT IT'S THE TRUTH.

HONESTLY, IT WAS ALSO ONE OF THOSE LEADERS...

WITHOUT EVEN USING GLASSES WEAPONS?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. YOUNG GIRLS WHO ARE STILL IN TRAINING WERE ABLE TO IDENTIFY...

...A BUNCH OF SECURE PASSWORDS SET BY A MILITARY CORPORA-TION?

HEE HEE HEE! OF COURSE NOT.

I'D NEVER SUGGEST SOMETHING SO CLICHE.

AND? DON'T TELL ME YOU NOW WANT ME TO BECOME THE LEADER OF ALL FIRST-YEARS...

...IN ORDER TO GET THE PASS-WORDS?

...BUT THEY'RE EVEN GREEDY ENOUGH TO ASK FOR GLASSES WEAPONS IN RETURN FOR THE INTEL.

AND AS A RESULT, NOT ONLY DO THEY REFUSE TO TELL ME THE PASS-WORDS...

THAT'S JUST A TESTAMENT TO HOW UNIQUE THEY ALL ARE.

AND YET SHE WAS ACTING LIKE IT WAS SOME BIG ACCOM-PLISHMENT SHE DID ON HER OWN...

Didn't she say she sucks at puzzles?

I WANT YOU TO BECOME THE CODE EMPEROR.

THEN, ONCE I COMPLETE THE GLASSES WEAPON...

...YOU AND I WILL CLAIM CIPHER ACADEMY'S CRYPTO ASSETS ALL FOR OURSELVES.

THIS ALL FITS IN WITH YOUR MANIFESTO, RIGHT?

SINCE CLASS A'S LEVELING ALSO EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS, I'VE NOT ONLY GOTTEN HALFWAY TOWARD MY DREAM...

...I SHOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO MAKE IT COME TRUE TWICE IF I SO DESIRE.

JUST TO CONFIRM ...

...ABOUT THE LOCATION OF THE DANCER?

YOU WANT ME TO ASK ONE OF THE LEADING PRIVATES...

I WILL END ALL WARS IN THE WORLD.

BUT I GUARANTEE THAT IF YOU MANAGE TO *DECODE THEM OVER TO YOUR SIDE*...

...YOU WILL INDEED BECOME THE CODE EMPEROR... THE LEADER OF CIPHER ACADEMY IN BOTH NAME AND REALITY.

YEAH. BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU WHO HAS THE INTEL.

I HAVE MY OWN OBLIGATIONS TO KEEP CERTAIN THINGS SECRET, AFTER ALL.

BAM

AREN'T YOU TWO FORGETTING...

...ABOUT ME?

?!

...EARLY IN THE MORNING ON JUNE 6 BY THE POOL?

...THEN THE LEADERS' PEACE CONFERENCE IS BEING HELD...

A LOGIC PUZZLE? IF EVERYONE'S LYING ABOUT ONE THING...

I TOLD HER TO GIVE IT BACK TO KOGOE...

PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY WANT *MY* GLASSES WEAPON...

THE ONE IROHAZAKA-KUN GAVE TO ME.

I HEARD EVERYTHING FROM TAYUTAN AND YUKAKO.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I RECEIVED AN INVITATION AS WELL.

JUNE 9, AFTER SCHOOL, IN THE CHERRY-BLOSSOM GARDEN...

...IS THE CORRECT ANSWER.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE IMMEDIATE ANSWER IT LEADS TO IS A LIE, SO I EXCLUDED IT.

Otherwise, it wouldn't make sense that the list starts with "B."

A, *THE NARRATOR*, IS ALSO LYING ABOUT SOMETHING.

...WHICH MEANS THE SENTENCE IS ALSO REFERENCING ITSELF.

NO. EVERYONE'S LYING ABOUT ONE THING...

☆ Everyone is lying about one thing ☆

B: June 6, early morning, cherry blossom garden
C: June 6, after school, pool
D: June 9, early morning, pool

SHE WANTED TO MAKE ASSES OUT OF US.

THAT WAS PROBABLY THE WHOLE POINT.

ACTUALLY...

WE ALMOST GOT STUCK GOING TO THE POOL IN THE MORNING, ALL ALONE!

GEEZ... TALK ABOUT SCARY!

IT'S A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL COMPARED TO OUR AFFABLE CLASSMATES.

THAT'S THE KIND OF PEOPLE WE'RE UP AGAINST THIS TIME.

IN EXCHANGE, YOU'RE GOING TO LET THIS NOBLE VILLAINESS...

...IN ON YOUR CON-SPIRACY.

I WON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT YOUR HISTORY AS A WARMONGER...

...YET.

KLAK KLAK

ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL THOSE LOVE LETTERS YOU SENT ME IN THE PAST.

I KNOW HOW YOU THINK NOW.

YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO JOIN...

...BUT, KYORA-SAN, HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE?

YOU KNOW THAT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN MY TOP CANDIDATE SINCE LONG AGO!

HEE HEE HEE... AW, COME ON, KYORA-SAN.

SO I'M WARNING YOU... I DON'T CARE ABOUT MYSELF, BUT IF YOU DISAPPOINT IROHAZAKA-KUN...

EVERY NONNUCLEAR WEAPON I HAVE, RIGHT ONTO YOUR HEAD.

RMB

...I'LL DROP THEM FOR REAL THIS TIME...

THAT THING YOU ALWAYS DO, TOSHIISAI-SAN!

OOH, I KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO TO BRIGHTEN THE MOOD!

YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU? PLEASE!

...THE THREE OF US ARE GOING TO TAKE PART IN THIS CODE BATTLE TOGETHER, RIGHT?

HEY! YOU MEAN THIS TIME...

?!

That was quick!

BUT FINE, IROHAZAKA-KUN, IF YOU INSIST.

LIM, YOU DO KNOW THIS ISN'T SOMETHING JUST ANYONE CAN DO, RIGHT?

I'M NOT DOING IT! EVEN IF IT'S A REQUEST FROM IROHA!

NOT BEING ABLE TO STAND THAT SORT OF ATMOSPHERE IS ANOTHER REASON WHY I QUIT YOUR COMPANY!

I NEVER DO STUFF LIKE THAT!

WAIT! I'M NOT DOING THAT!

共犯者

*Touge, Shu, Zaka

...BUT I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT IF KYORA-SAN'S MY ALLY.

NOW THE BETRAYAL AND ABANDONMENT WILL BE HARDER TO PULL OFF...

Kogoe Horagatoge
No sign of regret or trust

...DO ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, AND I'LL BEAT YOUR BUTT.

DON'T THINK OF ME AS AN ALLY. WHETHER YOU'RE A WARMONGER OR A CODE EMPEROR...

Kyora Toshusai
No mercy or lagging behind

IT'LL BE FUN FIGHTING THIS ONE TOGETHER!

THIS PEACE CONFERENCE IS GONNA BE ELEMENTARY!

Iroha Irohazaka
No doubts or hesitation!

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

Code Emperor

Academy General

Academy Adviser

Academy Staff Officer

Gradewide Leader

Class Leading Private

Student Soldier

Chapter 25:

THE ROAD TO WAR TROPHIES ALSO STARTS WITH A SINGLE STEP

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

CLASS LEADING PRIVATE PEACE CONFERENCE SITE: CHERRY BLOSSOM GARDEN

CIPHER ACADEMY, LIMITED OUTING AREA

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CHERRY BLOSSOMS BLOOM BEAUTIFULLY ALL YEAR LONG HERE.

HEH... THANKS, KUBINASHI-SAN...

THOSE GLASSES LOOK GOOD ON YOU.

PAT PAT

OH, IROHAZAKA-KUN, THERE YOU ARE.

YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR NERVE YET, HUH? YOU'VE GOT GUTS, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT. NOW SIT DOWN.

ALL THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATES, GATHERED TOGETHER.

THIS REALLY IS A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT.

I ALSO HAVE PEOPLE I'D RATHER NOT RUN INTO, YOU KNOW.

CAN'T SAY THAT TOO LOUDLY, THOUGH...

YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO JOIN THEM, KYORA-SAN?

CH_3OH

AS LONG AS THEY HAVE A *MATCHMAKER* THERE, NOTHING TOO SERIOUS SHOULD HAPPEN.

BESIDES, NOW THAT IROHAZA-KUN IS THE CLASS A LEADING PRIVATE...

...HE'LL NEED TO BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND FACE-TO-FACE...ER, *BUTT-TO-BUTT* MEETINGS LIKE THESE.

SORRY FOR BEING LATE, EVEN THOUGH I'M THE TEACHER!

STAGGER

STAGGER

THESE CHERRY BLOSSOMS LOOK SO GORGEOUS, RIGHT DOWN TO THE ROOTS!

Junko Ikusu
Instructor in charge of class 1-C
(Science)

CH_3OH

METHANOL ?!

WON'T YOU GO BLIND IF YOU DRINK THAT?!

THERE'S ONLY WATER INSIDE THIS! IT'S JUST A NOVELTY ITEM.

ALL RIGHT NOW, STUDENTS, LET'S GET STARTED!

I'M SO EXCITED! WHO'S GOING TO LEAD THE MEETING?

WITH YOUR PERMISSION...

...SINCE I WAS THE ONE WHO PROPOSED THIS.

...MEANT TO EXCAVATE THE 50 BILLION MORG SLUMBERING WITHIN CIPHER ACADEMY.

...THE UPDATE FOR THE PICKAX GLASSES WEAPONS...

...ONE OF THE SIX PASSWORDS NEEDED TO COMPLETE...

CURRENTLY, EACH CLASS LEADER HERE POSSESSES...

"OKAY! THEN LET'S SHARE THE PASSWORDS WE'VE FIGURED OUT WITH EACH OTHER!"

WE'RE CIPHER SOLDIERS, SO THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

...SUCCEEDED IN PRODUCING A TOTAL OF 18. IN OTHER WORDS, JUST ENOUGH FOR A SINGLE CLASS.

BY A STRANGE COINCIDENCE, THE DEVELOPER OF THESE GLASSES, KOGOE HORAGATOGE...

SO LET'S TAKE THE PEACEFUL ROUTE HERE— WINNER TAKES ALL.

I MOVE TO ENACT A CLASS-VERSUS-CLASS CODE BATTLE.

...MEANT TO DECIDE THE LEADER OF THE *CLASS LEADERS*, OR IN OTHER WORDS, THE *GRADEWIDE LEADER*.

THE ACADEMY WILL NEVER ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OF THOSE CRYPTO-ASSETS...

...SO LET'S MAKE THIS AN OFFICIAL CODE BATTLE...

NICE IDEA! YEAH, LET'S DO IT!

ALTHOUGH, NOT TO SUPPLEMENT WHAT YOU JUST SAID, BUT...

...WILL ALSO BECOME THE UNOFFICIAL CODE EMPEROR, SO DO YOUR BEST!

IN OTHER WORDS, THE WINNER OF THIS CODE BATTLE...

AND SINCE THERE AREN'T ANY SECOND- OR THIRD-YEARS, THE GRADEWIDE LEADER CAN ALSO SERVE AS THE ACADEMY GENERAL.

I'LL TRY TO CONSIDER ALL YOUR WISHES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

TOK

$C_{11}H_{3}OH$

...AND SUGGEST SOME RULES FOR THE CODE BATTLE?

IF THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS, THEN CAN YOU INTRODUCE YOUR-SELVES...

INSTRUCTOR IKUSU SEEMS A LOT DIFFERENT FROM OUR INSTRUCTOR...

CODE EMPEROR...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The academy general is basically the equivalent of the student council president at a normal school. The academy staff officer is the vice president, and the academy adviser is the treasurer, I guess? (I don't really know much about normal schools.)

LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

I DON'T LIKE ROUND-ROBINS. I HOPE WE CAN AT LEAST MAKE THIS A TOURNAMENT BATTLE...

Tonbo Rikukeito
Class 1-B (information scrambling class)
Class leading private

LOSING TO A ONE-MAN TEAM COULD LEAD TO BAD FEELINGS...

...AND SINCE THIS IS CLASS VERSUS CLASS, I THINK FIVE-ON-FIVE BATTLES WOULD WORK.

Shitai Kubinashi
Class 1-E (undercover operations class)
Class leading private

Invalides Yonakiuguisu
Class 1-C (telepathy class)
Class leading private

THEN PHYSICAL COMPETITION AND VIOLENCE SHOULD BE AGAINST THE RULES.

ABOUT HALF THE STUDENTS IN MY CLASS HAVE SKIPPED GRADES, AFTER ALL.

NO COMMENT.

Shakunage Hakanage
Class 1-F (special mission class)
Class leading private

SINCE IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S ONE CLASS WITH A MONOPOLY ON THEM...

...JUST IN CASE, PLEASE FORBID ALL USE OF GLASSES WEAPONS DURING THE CODE BATTLES.

Seppun Zakuroguchi
Class 1-D (dying-message decoding class)
Class leading private

ALL RIGHT THEN, I HAVE ONE PROPOSAL AS WELL.

IT'S NOT EXACTLY A RULE, THOUGH...

THEY'RE QUICKLY MOVING ALONG WITHOUT GIVING ME A CHANCE TO SAY ANYTHING! AS IF IT'S SET IN STONE THAT WE HAVE TO FIGHT!

...

NO MATTER WHICH CLASS WINS, ONCE THIS BATTLE'S OVER...

...LET'S ALL EAT BALIMKLICHEN HERE TOGETHER.

Iroha Irohazaka
Class 1-A (indiscriminate decoding class)
Class leading private

AS LONG AS YOU FOLLOW THAT RULE, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT SORT OF CODES OR BATTLES GET THROWN AT US...

IT'LL ALL BE ELEMENTARY TO CLASS I-A!

HMM... I SEE.

BAUM-KUCHEN...

DON'T YOU THINK IROHA LET YOSAIMURA INFLUENCE HIM A LITTLE TOO MUCH?

HOW LONG DOES HE INTEND TO KEEP PLAYING THE MURDER-MYSTERY GAME?

IROHAZAKA-KUN'S BEEN INFLUENCED BY EVERYONE.

AND SINCE HE'S OUR CLASS REP, THAT'S HOW WE NEED HIM TO BE.

ALTHOUGH THERE'S AT LEAST ONE PERSON PRESENT THERE...

...WHO'S IMPERVIOUS TO THAT KIND OF SPIRIT.

OKAY! THEN LET'S FIGURE OUT THE DETAILS LATER...

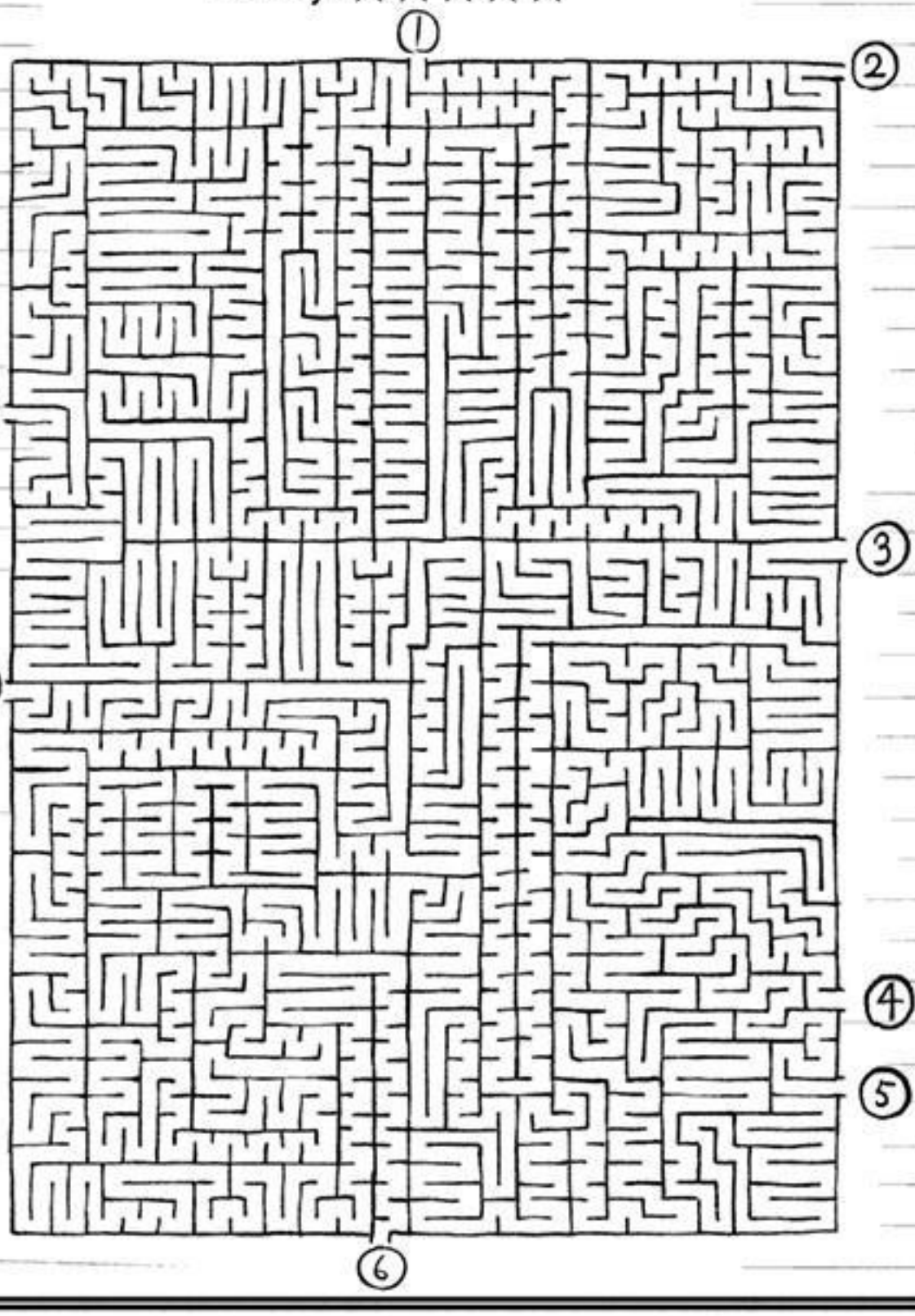
...AND DECIDE ON...

SWP

...THE MATCHUP FOR TODAY'S FIRST BATTLE!

Q.83

Difficulty : ★★☆☆☆





8
6
7
5
3
!!
PERHAPS THAT'S HIS WEAK POINT.
IROHAZAKA-KUN ALWAYS SEEMS TO STUMBLE AT THE START.
Falling right on his butt...
AWWW ...
HE WOULD HAVE HAD A THREE OUT OF FOUR CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING HAD HE PICKED THE FIRST NUMBER THAT CAME TO MIND...
...BUT NOW HE'S SUDDENLY DOWN TO A TWO OUT OF THREE CHANCE OF FAILURE BEFORE THE BATTLE EVEN STARTS!
?
ICE
READ-ING!!
COLD
WAIT, KOGOE, THAT'S NOT WHAT—
WELL! THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, TO MAKE UP FOR HIS SHORT-COMINGS!
GOOD THING HE BORROWED OBORO'S "COLOR GLASSES."

THE ATMOSPHERE REALLY IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM CLASS A...

MRG... MORG?! BUT SHE JUST SAID THE ACADEMY WOULDN'T OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE IT!

!!

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

NO! THIS FEELS LIKE EXACTLY WHAT YOU'D FIND OUTSIDE OF CLASS A!

IT'S ELEMENTARY...

①!

WAIT, CLASS A.

WEREN'T YOU LISTENING?

USING GLASSES WEAPONS IS AGAINST THE RULES.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

In other words, the dead-end routes are two and four. Four is obvious, but two makes you wander around a lot before reaching the dead end, which is especially heartbreaking. The correct ones are just solitary routes that twist around a lot (guess that's why it's called Arachne, get it?), so it's a tournament chart where no one will get lost. Perhaps the championship will be fought by the three class leaders who win the M, R, and G sectors?

THERE'S NO WAY THEY WOULDN'T NOTICE, UNLIKE WHEN I USED MINE.

THEY ALL FOUND OUT THAT THE WEAPONS ARE GLASSES, REMEMBER?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW? HE'S LOST BEFORE THE BATTLE'S EVEN BEGUN.

HEE HEE HEE! YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY!

IF HE REALLY HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY EVERY-ONE...

...THEN HE'S ALSO BEEN INFLUENCED BY *HER*, RIGHT?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU FORBADE THE USE OF THEM DURING BATTLES...

...WHICH MEANS THAT RIGHT NOW, *PRE-BATTLE*...

...I CAN DO WHATEVER THE HECK I WANT!

Gah!

JUST HOW UNSTABLE ARE THIS KID'S EMOTIONS?

HE SPOKE SUCH SPIRITED WORDS, ONLY TO PULL SUCH A FIERCE, EVIL MOVE...

A組 VS E組

*Class A vs. Class E

THE BOUTS HAVE BEEN DECIDED!

B組 VS C組

*Class B vs. Class C

D組 VS F組

*Class D vs. Class F

...WE CAN'T CALL THIS A HAPPY RESULT.

EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A BIT LATE AT THE START AND HAD NO OTHER CHOICE...

SO WE'RE UP AGAINST CLASS E FIRST, HUH?

SHITAI KUBINASHI IS A DIFFERENT MATTER...

NO, THAT WOULD BE RIKUKEITO-SAN FROM CLASS B.

SHE'S JUST THE TYPE OF PERSON I ABSOLUTELY CAN'T STAND.

DOES THAT MEAN...

...SHE'S THE PERSON YOU DON'T WANT TO RUN INTO, KYORA-SAN?

I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, BUT...

...SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN CLASS E'S LEADER AND OMOMURO, RIGHT?

...DON'T EVEN WANT TO SEE HER FACE.

THE *FOUR* OF US...

To be continued!

...AND THE FIRST CLASSES TO WIN THREE TIMES WILL MOVE ON TO THE FINALS.

FIVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH CLASS WILL COMPETE IN A TEAM CODE BATTLE...

GRADE-WIDE LEADER CONTINUOUS THINKING TOURNAMENT

CIPHER ACADEMY

Team A!

Chapter 26:
THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE CODE

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Outro

Team (?) E!

Shitai Kubinashi
Class 1-E leading private

HUH? KUBINASHI-SAN...

YOU'RE ALONE? WHERE ARE YOUR OTHER TEAM-MATES?

HEH HEH.

UNLIKE YOUR INDISCRIMINATE DECODING CLASS...

...MY CLASS E SPECIALIZES IN UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS.

MY FORWARD...

Q.84

Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆

!!

...HAS ALREADY RESPECTFULLY INFILTRATED...

...THIS HALL SOMEWHERE.

I THINK THE STUDENTS OF CLASS A COULD GIVE THEM A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY IN THAT DEPARTMENT. ♡

NO, NO... ♡

Shibori Nikueda
Instructor in charge of class 1-A
(Health/PE)

SORRY, NIKUEDA SENSEI.

THE STUDENTS OF CLASS E ARE ALL EXTREMELY STRONG-WILLED.

Kabuki Kageboshi
Instructor in charge of class 1-E
(Music/Art)

THREE DAYS EARLIER

Library

I'M SURPRISED AT HOW ONE-SIDED IROHAZAKA'S SELECTION ENDED UP BEING.

STILL...

IT'S THE CLASS 1-A POWER STRUCTURE MAP!

YAY! ALL DONE!

LIVE COMMENTARY TEAM

IROHAZAKA ALLIANCE

TOSHUSAI CLAN

NOHIME FAMILY

FREE AGENTS

?

?

LOOKING AT IT THIS WAY, WE HAVE FIVE DIFFERENT FACTIONS.

FACTIONS

GET ALONG WELL

THIS IS ONLY BASED ON MY OWN KNOWLEDGE, OF COURSE.

FORWARD IROHA IROHAZAKA

SECOND OTAMAJAKUSHI MAMUSHIHISHIMEKI

CENTER HARUKIRI BOTAYAMA

VICE-CAPTAIN IESUNO NOHIME

GENERAL KYORA TOSHUSAI

WE'LL SAVE YOSAIMURA-SAN AND ANONYMITY-SAN FOR LATER.

SO THEN I'LL SELECT ONE PERSON FROM EACH FACTION FOR THE FIRST ROUND, LIKE SO!

ROLL ROLL

A VERY ADEQUATE SELECTION ...

I'M SURE I'D HAVE SIMILAR RESULTS IF IT WAS UP TO ME...UNDER NORMAL CIRCUM-STANCES, THAT IS.

SHF SHF SHF

TOSHUSAI-SAN!

FWP

...WITH SHUTAN, TAYUTAN, AND YUKAKO?

BUT, IROHAKAZA-KUN, FOR THIS BATTLE...

...COULD YOU SWITCH OUT THE SECOND, CENTER, AND VICE-CAPTAIN...

RATTLE

HUH?! BUT THAT'LL CHANGE UP OUR ENTIRE MIDFIELD!

AND BY SHUTAN...

DO YOU MEAN NUTABA-SAN?!

WHY?! SHE ISN'T PART OF THE TOSHUSAI FACTION...

...

PLEASE.

DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH...

...TOSHU-SAI-SAN.

YOU KNOW THAT I'D NEVER IGNORE A REQUEST FROM YOU...

...EVEN WITHOUT HEARING SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

BESIDES, IF IT MEANS I GET TO ADD *HER* TO MY TEAM...

...IT'LL BE A DREAM COME TRUE.

IS IT SAFE TO SAY THAT CLASS E HAS WON THE FORWARD BATTLE BY DEFAULT, THEN?

WHAT'S WRONG? CAN'T FIND MY ALLY?

HEH. WANT TO MAKE A BET, THEN?

IS HOKIBOSHI, THE FORWARD FROM CLASS E, REALLY HIDING IN THIS HALL OR NOT?

NO ONE'S HIDDEN ANYWHERE— YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO GET AN EASY WIN!

OF COURSE NOT! HMPH, I GET IT!

FOR SOME REASON FIVE PEOPLE CHALLENGED ME TO A CODE BATTLE IN A ROW IN THE HALLWAY!

SORRY I'M LATE!

THAT'S ELEMEN—





AL-THOUGH...

...I SUPPOSE IT'LL STILL BE A CINCH EVEN IF I FIGHT THE NORMAL WAY.

FWUMP

ぽさっ

Senpenbanka Hokiboshi
Class 1-E forward



LET'S BEGIN THE FORWARD BATTLE, THEN.

SIT DOWN, IROHAZAKA-KUN.

OF COURSE, I MUST CAUTION YOU AGAINST TREATING ME LIKE THE FIVE WHO WERE MEANT TO SLOW YOU DOWN.

THAT'LL BE ELE-MENTARY! (THE REAL IROHA-ZAKA)

TIME TO EXTEND MY WINNING STREAK TO SIX PEOPLE!

WILL HE REALLY BE ABLE TO DEFEAT HOKIBOSHI AFTER THE FIVE OF THEM?

THAT BEING SAID, I DID CAREFULLY SELECT THE PEOPLE I SENT OUT THERE SO AS NOT TO BE RUDE.

...

?!

TAKE A REST, IROHA-ZAKA-KUN.

PEOPLE LIKE HER...

...ARE MY ABSOLUTE SPECIALTY.

YUGATA-SAN...

...YOU'RE ALLOWED TO SAY NO, YOU KNOW?

ALSO, AS FAR AS THE CODE BATTLES GO...

Tayu Yugata
Class 1-A
Center turned forward

THERE WAS SOMETHING ARTISTIC ABOUT YOUR ACTING WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD US DUPED.

I LET YOU CONTINUE YOUR RUSE ON PURPOSE, OBVIOUSLY.

ANNOYED AT HOW PERFECTLY DECEIVED YOU WERE?

YOU'RE MORE PASSIONATE THAN THE RUMORS SAY, TAYU YUGATA.

HOW ABOUT A CODE BATTLE WITH THESE, THEN?

I'D SAY THAT EXCUSE OF YOURS IS ARTISTIC AS WELL.

FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, YOU'RE SKILLED AT PUZZLE RINGS.

Q.85

Difficulty : ★★★★☆





THERE ARE 240 DIFFERENT PATTERNS YOU CAN USE TO CREATE A CUBE...

...BUT WRITING A MESSAGE ON THE OUTER FACES BRINGS THE NUMBER OF CORRECT PATTERNS DOWN TO ONE.

I'VE DONE PUZZLES LIKE THAT WHEN I WAS A KID.

CUBES ARE COMPARATIVELY EASY SHAPES TO CREATE, RIGHT?

I'M NOT SURE.

BUT THAT MEANS...

...IT WON'T BE EASY FOR THE OPPONENT EITHER, RIGHT?

ONE OUT OF 240...

GULP

ゴクリ

FOLD

Iroha Irohazaka
Class 1-A
leading private
Size of investment from the Nohime Family: 100 million morg

...SENPENBANKA HOKIBOSHI IS...

ACCORDING TO KOGOE...

..."SKILLED ENOUGH THAT SHE WOULD HAVE DEFINITELY BEEN SCOUTED BY THE NOHIME FAMILY IF SHE WAS IN CLASS A"...

...EVEN IF IT WOULD COST THEM 200 MILLION MORG.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The Danish mathematician Piet Hein thought up a cubic puzzle called the Soma cube where seven different pieces are used to create a cube. It always ends up as a 3 x 3 x 3 cube composed of nine blocks with six faces.

I HAD INSTRUCTOR KAGEBOSHI CREATE THIS PUZZLE...

...SO I'M ALSO SEEING IT FOR THE FIRST TIME.

NO MIDDLING MISCONDUCT HAS BEEN COMMITTED, SO YOU NEEDN'T WORRY.

OF COURSE, I'VE ALREADY GRASPED EVERY LAST ONE OF THE 240 CUBE PATTERNS.

GO ON, ACT LIKE YOU AREN'T WORRIED AT ALL AND TRY TO PUT IT TOGETHER WITH ONE HAND...

DIFFICULT RULES.

SNAP

?!

OH, COME ON, YUGATA-SAN, KNOCK IT OFF!

DON'T TELL ME YOU CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND RULES LIKE THESE—

WRONG.

WHAT I MEANT WAS...

IT'LL BE HARD TO WIN WITHOUT HURTING YOU UNDER THESE RULES.

HUH?

RIP

Q: INDIGO AND PURPLE ARE TWO COLORS THAT ARE IN A RAINBOW BUT NOT ON A RUBIK'S CUBE. WHAT'S THE COLOR THAT'S ON A RUBIK'S CUBE, BUT NOT IN A RAINBOW?

A: WHITE

Q: INDIGO AND PURPLE ARE TWO COLORS THAT ARE IN A RAINBOW BUT NOT ON A RUBIK'S CUBE. WHAT'S THE COLOR THAT'S ON A RUBIK'S CUBE, BUT NOT IN A RAINBOW?

A: WHITE

CON-SIDERING THE LETTERS THAT WERE ON THE BACK AND BOTTOM...

...SHE COULD PROBABLY ONLY SEE...

...ABOUT *HALF* THE TOTAL LETTERS FROM HER ANGLE...

...SHE DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH ANY OF THE BLOCKS ON THE TABLE!

IT CAN'T BE... NOT ONLY DID SHE NOT PUT TOGETHER A CUBE...

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

HALF IS WAY TOO MUCH TO GIVE THAT PERSON...

H-HALF?

YOU ACTUALLY SHOWED HER HALF OF THE QUESTION BEFORE THE BATTLE?

I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED NO LESS FROM CLASS E.

YOUR *MIMICRY* REALLY IS SOMETHING ELSE.

IT'S TRUE THAT I WAS LYING ABOUT LETTING YOU CONTINUE YOUR RUSE ON PURPOSE.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Assuming she put together the cube in her head, the question Yugata saw was as follows: "Q. Niji ni axterux xxxkyuxxxx iiroxaxxxx xxxxxruxbix kukyuxbunixtte xxxxixrowa?" Incidentally, the seven colors of a rainbow are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and purple. The six colors of a Rubik's Cube are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and white.

INSTANT DEFEAT! THE VICTOR IS...

IF YOU CAN, THAT IS...

TRY MIMICKING ME NEXT TIME.

..."THE TRAUMA CREATOR" FROM CLASS I-A, TAYU YUGATA!

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

...THE "TRAUMA CREATOR," TAYU YUGATA!

THE VICTOR OF THE...

...CLASS I-A VS. CLASS I-E FORWARD BATTLE IS...

Chapter 27: MEDIOCRE STRATEGY IS THE SOURCE OF CODES

YEAH, YEAH.

"I NEVER TOLD YOU TO GO THAT FAR," RIGHT?

TAYUTAN.

Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

...

SURE...

NO.

WELL DONE.

NOW THEN...

HEH HEH... WELL, LET'S PROCEED TO THE SECOND BATTLE.

WHERE COULD MY SECOND BE HIDING?!

...

WHERE...? BUT THERE AREN'T ANY HIDING PLACES...

...ON THIS WIDE-OPEN STAGE...

YUGATA-SAN AND HER OPPONENT JUST USED THAT TABLE FOR THEIR BATTLE...

HM... THAT CAN'T BE, NUTABA-SAN.

RIGHT THERE. SOMEONE'S HIDING UNDER THE TABLE...

...OR SO SHUTAN THINKS.

I CALL IT "EMBRACING AND MATCHING!"

Byu Hanagoromo
Class 1-E second

OUR GENERAL AND FORWARD ARE CRUEL-HEARTED AND RUDE...

...SO I WANT TO PROVE THAT THERE ARE GOOD PEOPLE IN CLASS E TOO.

ALLOW ME TO PROPOSE A PARTY GAME.

SHE

CORRECT.

¡¿

WHICH MEANS MY OPPONENT IS YOU.

FIRST, WE NEED ONE "PRESENTER."

THIS TIME, IT'LL BE NUTABA-SAN.

I'M GLAD SHE'S NOT A CHARACTER WHO ALWAYS SPEAKS UPSIDE DOWN...

EVERYONE HAS A FLIP BOARD AND MARKERS, YES?

LET ME EXPLAIN THE RULES, THEN.

THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO WHAT THEY CAN ASK, BUT YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DISCUSS IT WITH EACH OTHER.

WHICH JOJO'S PART IS THE BEST?

THE PRESENTER CAN FREELY ASK THE REMAINING FOUR WHATEVER QUESTION THEY WANT.

THE FOUR "ANSWERERS" NEED TO ANSWER THE QUESTION...

...BUT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWER.

WHICH JOJO'S PART IS THE BEST?

THE NINTH.

THE SIXTH.

THE SECOND AND FOURTH.

ALL OF THEM, RIGHT?

BUT UNLESS ALL FOUR ANSWERS ARE THE SAME, YOU LOSE.

YOU'LL HAVE FOUR ATTEMPTS. IF YOU GET THE SAME ANSWER ONCE WITHIN THOSE FOUR ATTEMPTS...

WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE LAST BOSS?

DIO

DIO

DIO BRANDO

DIO-SAMA

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE ATTAINED VICTORY WITH YOUR TEAMWORK!

HOWEVER, YOU AUTOMATICALLY LOSE...

...IF I, AS THE "SPY," HAPPEN TO GUESS YOUR ANSWER AS WELL.

WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE LAST BOSS?

DIO

DIO

DIO BRANDO

DIO-SAMA

DIO BRANDO

"Party" means "allies," right?!

THIS REALLY IS A PARTY GAME! SOUNDS FUN!

I GUESS THERE ACTUALLY ARE PEOPLE LIKE YOSAIMURA-SAN IN CLASS E!

THIS...

HEH HEH. SO YOU AREN'T CONFIDENT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE THEM PERFECTLY IDENTICAL?

THEN LET'S MAKE SYNONYMS FAIR GAME.

BUT THE SAME GOES FOR THE SPY.

...DO KIRA YOSHIKAGE AND KAWAJIRI KOSAKU COUNT AS THE SAME PERSON?

FOR EXAMPLE, GOING WITH THE THEME...

QUESTION.

DO WE GET SOME LEEWAY AS TO THE SAMENESS OF EACH ANSWER?

WHAT DO YOU SAY, SHUTAN?

YOU DECIDE.

...THEN I DON'T MIND DOING A NORMAL CODE BATTLE.

STILL, I DON'T WANT TO FORCE YOU TO PLAY THIS.

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN'T BEAT ME FIVE-ON-ONE...

LET'S DO IT!

BY THE WAY, WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE AGAIN?

Q.85

Difficulty: ★★★☆☆

Matching!

Shutan Nutaba vs. Byu Hanagoromo

Embracing and Matching!

THE KEY IS HOW WELL YOU CAN SYNCHRONIZE YOURSELF WITH THE OTHER ANSWERERS.

IN THIS GAME, WISDOM AND ACCURACY...

...DON'T MATTER FOR THE "ANSWER-ERS."

BUT OF COURSE, SUCH A QUESTION...

...WILL ONLY MAKE EVERYONE PERFECT PREY FOR THE "SPY."

THEREFORE, IT'S BEST IF THE "PRESENTER" CHOOSES A QUESTION ...

...THAT'LL BE EASY FOR EVERYONE TO ANSWER IN THE SAME WAY.

SOMETHING THAT CAN INSTANTLY BE CREATED ON THE SPOT WITHOUT ANY SORT OF MEETING...

...NUTABA-SAN HAS AMNESIA.

ACCORDING TO THE MURDER-MYSTERY CHARACTER SHEET...

SOMETHING THAT WE ALL KNOW, BUT THE ENEMY DOESN'T...

IT'S LIKE CREATING A PASSWORD, WHERE ONE PERSON SAYS "MOUNTAIN" AND THE OTHERS ANSWER "RIVER" ON THE SPOT WITHOUT CONSULTING EACH OTHER.

KYOTO TOWER

Hanoi-tou

Hanoi Tower

Tower of Hanoi

ICE

CARROT STRIPS

Sakura denbu

Pink fish flakes

Pink fish floss

COLD

QUEEN BICYCLE RACE

Bicycle Show Song (Nasu: Summer in Andalusia)

Bicycle Show Song

Bicycle Show Song

MIS-READING ...?

LOOKING AT IT FROM ANOTHER P.O.V. IT'S A GOOD THING MINE ARE DIFFERENT...

NO, IT MAKES SENSE THAT THE OTHER THREE ARE IN SYNC...

...WHO ISN'T MATCHING UP!

GUH... I'M THE ONLY ONE...

...SINCE I'VE FELT THIS HELP-LESS!

QUEEN BICYCLE RACE

IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

What were the questions for the three sets of answers listed above?
(Those will be revealed in the graphic novel.)

IF I'D WRITTEN THE SAME THING, WE'D HAVE LOST ALREADY...

SHE'S MORE OF A SNIPER THAN A SPY.

...SINCE ALL OF THOSE ANSWERS HAVE BEEN RIGHT IN THE SPY'S SIGHTS.

Bicycle
Show Spring

HEH.

SO THIS IS THE POWER OF I-E, THE UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS CLASS!

ANALYSIS SKILLS SO SHARP THAT IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S PREDICTING OUR "SECRET QUESTIONS"...

AFTER ALL, IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME CORRECTLY...

...SHUTAN NUTABA...

...THE AMNESIAC GIRL WHO'S BEEN PRESENTING THE QUES-TIONS, IS ACTUALLY...

WELL, YOU NEEDN'T WORRY.

FEELING ALIENATED SINCE YOUR ANSWERS ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT DON'T MATCH, IROHAZAKA-KUN?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Secret questions are the security questions you select when you register an account somewhere. "What was the first movie you saw?" "What was the name of your first pet?" Only the person who sets those questions should know the answer. They also serve as a type of code, as well as a perfect theme for a code battle to determine who gets the right to log in to a members-only zone.

KYORA TOSHLISAI'S LITTLE SISTER.

OH, SORRY.

DID YOU THINK YOU'D MANAGED TO KEEP IT QUIET?

A STEP-SISTER...

...WITH A COMPLI-CATED BACK-GROUND, THAT IS.

...

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, YUKAKO?

I SUPPOSE YOU WOULDN'T GO BLABBING ABOUT SUCH A THING TO YOUR FIGUREHEAD OF A LEADER!

TRUE, THESE KIND OF FAMILY MATTERS ARE ONLY CIRCUM-STANCES IN THE WEALTHY SECTOR.

HOW LUCKY! IF EVERYONE KNOWS...

...THEN I CAN STOP PRETENDING TO HAVE AMNESIA, RIGHT?

I'M ALSO RELIEVED. SURE DIDN'T TAKE MUCH TO MAKE CLASS E GET ALL SMUG.

YOU STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT CLASS A!

PEEV

WHRRR

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.

YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, THOUGH...

JUST FOCUS ON THE GAME FOR NOW.

?!

!!

?!

?!

...LIKE A SNIPER PREPARING TO COUNTER-ATTACK.

SHE'S BEEN FOCUSING HER SIGHTS ON THE FINAL QUESTION FROM THE START...

YOU DON'T NEED TO MATCH YOUR ANSWERS WITH US, EITHER.

JUST TRY TO PREDICT WHAT SHUTAN'S GOING FOR...

...SO I'LL EXCUSE IT.

HEY NOW, WHAT ARE YOU ACTING SO BOLD FOR? TOSHUSAI-SAN, I TOLD YOU...

...DISCUSSING THINGS WAS AGAINST THE RULES. OF COURSE, IT WAS MY INCONSIDERATE GENERAL WHO OPENED HER MOUTH FIRST...

OKAY, HERE'S MY FINAL QUESTION.

FINAL!

QUES...

...SHUTAN!

Who's the fourth cutest member of class 03

TUNK

SHE'S REFERRING TO HERSELF IN FIRST PERSON NOW...?

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT I WAS UNDER THE TABLE...

YOU'RE THE ONES WHO NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CLASS E.

HOW BEFITTING OF TOSHUSAI'S LITTLE SISTER. HOWEVER...

I TRIED SHAKING HER JUST FOR FUNSIES, BUT IT WAS INEFFECTIVE.

HOW FAR DO YOU TRUST KOGOE HORAGATOGE?
WHO WOULD YOU MARRY IN CLASS I-A?
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS YOUR OWN CUTENESS RANK IN CLASS?
WHO DO YOU HONESTLY THINK IS MOST SUITE[illegible] BEING CLASS LEADING[illegible]TIVATE?
DID YOU EVER EXPER[illegible] CHILD ABUSE

WHY ARE YOU ASSUMING THAT I WASN'T UNDER THE BED BACK THEN...

...OR THAT I WASN'T HIDING UNDER THE POKER TABLE DURING THAT GAME?

I'M SWITCHING THREE CARDS OUT AND GOING ALL IN!

I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW I WAS ACTUALLY FOURTH PLACE!

IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'VE BEEN SLIDING THE AXIS OF YOUR QUESTIONS FROM RIGHT TO LEFT...

Q. 1

Q. 2

Q. 3

THE FIRST WAS FOR YUGATA-SAN. THE SECOND FOR TOSHUSAI-SAN. AND THE THIRD FOR YUKAKO-SAN...

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD THROW ME OFF WITH DEEPLY PRIVATE INSIDE JOKES, DIDN'T YOU?

Iroha
Irohazaka

WHICH MEANS THIS IS THE NEXT ANSWER!

ME

Iroha

Watashi

Me

I am

...THEY FAILED TO MATCH UP WITH US.

AND SINCE THE SPY ANSWERED WITH *SOMEONE'S NAME*...

Iroha Irohazaka

IN THAT CASE, ONE COULD SAY THAT ALL OUR ANSWERS MATCH...

...SINCE WE ALL ANSWERED IN *FIRST PERSON.*

Me

OH MY. EVERYONE THOUGHT IT WAS THEMSELVES? INCIDENTALLY...

...SYNONYMS ARE FAIR GAME, RIGHT?

...USING IROHA IROHAZAKA AS A DECOY... NO.

THEY EVADED OUR UNDERCOVER OPERATION THROUGH ***DIVERSITY*** *THAT DOESN'T MATCH UP...*

YES, IT SEEMS LIKE IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE THEM CRUMBLE FROM SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

IN WHICH CASE...

CLAP

THAT'S THE POWER OF CLASS I-A!

THEY USED HIM AS THEIR FLAG, DIDN'T THEY?

THE WINNER OF THE SECOND BATTLE...

...KYORA'S LITTLE SISTER, SHUTAN NUTABA!

...IS THE AMNESIAC GIRL, A.K.A....

NICE WORK, SHUTAN.

IT WAS NOTHING, KYORARIN.

HELPING OUT MY CUTE BIG SISTER WAS A PIECE OF CAKE!

MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...

YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, RIGHT? THE TRUE BATTLE STARTS NOW...

WELL DONE! NOW WE'VE BEEN BACKED INTO A CORNER.

AT THIS RATE, I MIGHT NEVER GET A CHANCE TO FIGHT...AND SO, I HAVE A BRAZEN REQUEST FOR YOU.

HOW ABOUT MAKING THE NEXT BATTLE A TWO-ON-TWO TAG TEAM MATCH?

A TAG TEAM MATCH?

THE THIRD PERSON'S HIDING IN KUBINASHI-SAN'S SHADOW...

IF YOU ACCEPT, TOSHUSAI-JOU...

...I WILL PERSONALLY TAKE PART IN THE TAG BATTLE.

ME... YOUR FOUL NEMESIS, WHO MANAGED TO INFILTRATE KICK-ATTACK PLANNING *ALONGSIDE YUKAKO...*

...AND LEAKED ALL YOUR MILITARY SECRETS WITH DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES.

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 28:

EMPLOY THE BATTLEFIELD AND YOU'LL STAND OUT。
GO WITH THE FLOW OF THE BATTLEFIELD AND YOU'LL GET WASHED AWAY。
TRY TO ENTER WARTIME AND YOU'LL END UP CRAMPED。
IN ANY CASE, TURBULENT TIMES ARE DIFFICULT TO LIVE IN。



Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey Lettering: Steve Dutro

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S TWO AGAINST TWO OR 20,000 AGAINST TWO.

YUKAKO AND I HAVE NO REASON TO TURN TAIL, SHITAI-SAN.

WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO ACCEPT, *SQUAD LEADER* TOSHUSAI?

A TWO-ON-TWO TAG TEAM MATCH AGAINST ME, THE PERSON YOU HATE SO MUCH.

EXCELLENT! IN THAT CASE, LADIES AND GENTLEMAN, HELP ME OUT IN *SETTING UP THE VENUE*...

...FOR THE CENTER AND VICE-CAPTAIN BATTLE!




...AND LEAKED ALL YOUR MILITARY SECRETS WITH DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES.
ME... YOUR FOUL NEMESIS, WHO MANAGED TO INFILTRATE KICK-ATTACK PLANNING TOGETHER WITH YUKAKO...
!
BY THE WAY, IROHAZAKA-KUN...
IF I SAID I WASN'T CURIOUS, THAT'D BE A LIE.
...AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH ME, YUKAKO, AND TOSHUSAI?

OF COURSE I AM, KUBINASHI-SAN.

SHE WAS A SPY ONCE...

...AND SHE COULD STILL BE A SPY NOW.

...SHE MIGHT STILL BE ONE NOW.

AREN'T YOU AFRAID? IF YUKAKO WAS A SPY BEFORE...

IF I SAID THAT, THAT'D BE A LIE TOO...

...I GUESS.

I'M AFRAID OF MYSELF.

YET I'VE ALREADY OPENED MY HEART TO OMOMURO-SAN SO MUCH THAT I FEEL LIKE I COULD EASILY FORGIVE HER.

TAYUTAN ...

KNOCK IT OFF.

THERE GOES IROHAZAKA-KUN, TALKING LIKE HE KNOWS EVERYTHING AGAIN...

I'M TOUCHED, CLASS LEADING PRIVATE IROHAZAKA ...

...BUT THAT'S NOT THE CORRECT RESPONSE.

SHUTAN...

YOU SHOULD TELL HIM, AND HE SHOULD KNOW. HE'S THE LEADER.

BETTER THAN HIM HEARING SOME WEIRD EXPLANATION INSTEAD.

SOME WEIRD EXPLANA-TION? THAT'S AN AWFULLY RUDE WAY OF PUTTING IT, SHUTAN...

...ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE THE ONE TRYING TO CENSOR THE NEWS.

INTEL LIKE THIS SHOULD BE PRESENTED WITH BOTH SIDES OF THE ARGUMENT.

IT ALL STARTED...

...THREE YEARS AGO.

...SHITAI KUBINASHI ESCAPED, LEAVING ONE OF HER UNDERLINGS BEHIND AS A DECOY.

...TAYUTAN QUICKLY SAW THROUGH THEM. BUT WE STILL KNEW THEY WERE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

THEN, AFTER ACQUIRING ENOUGH DATA TO RUIN THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM'S PLANS...

DESPITE THEIR DESPICABLE CLAIMS THAT THEY WERE ON OUR SIDE...

THEN, A CERTAIN CITIZEN'S GROUP SENT IN KUBINASHI AND HER GANG...

...TO STEAL OUR MILITARY SECRETS AND SELL THEM.

FOR THE SAKE OF WORLD PEACE AND PROTECTING OUR HOMELAND, KYORARIN AND SHUTAN SERVED AS ITS HEADS.

IN ORDER TO DEVELOP HUMANE, NONLETHAL WEAPONS...

...THE MILITARY ENTERPRISE KICK-ATTACK PLANNING DECIDED TO UTILIZE THE POWER OF YOUNG DIGITAL TALENT.

SHE WAS BRAVE ENOUGH TO PUT HER LIFE ON THE LINE SO THAT I COULD ESCAPE WITH THE DATA WE'D ACQUIRED.

THROUGH TAYUI YUGATA'S TORTURE, OUR INFILTRATION WAS EXPOSED.

THAT COULD HAVE BEEN IT FOR US—THAT IS IF ONE OF OUR ALLIES HADN'T DECIDED TO RISK HER LIFE.

IT WAS ALL FOR THE SAKE OF EXPOSING THEIR EVIL, UNFORGIVABLE DEEDS TO THE WORLD.

PREPARING OURSELVES FOR THE RISKS INVOLVED, WE HID OUR IDENTITIES AND INFILTRATED THE ORGANIZATION.

I WON'T SAY WE WERE CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE, BUT IT WAS OUR CIVIC DUTY.

...SHAMELESSLY INVOLVING THEM IN GENOCIDE, ALL IN ORDER TO MAKE A PROFIT.

THE INHUMANE CHILD LABOR EMPLOYED BY THE MILITARY ENTERPRISE KICK-ATTACK PLANNING WAS SOMETHING THAT COULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED.

THEY HAD INNOCENT CHILDREN WHO HAD YET TO LEARN RIGHT FROM WRONG DEVELOPING WEAPONS...

EVER SINCE THEN, YUKAKO HAS BEEN ONE OF KYORARIN'S TRUSTED FRIENDS.

KYORARIN TOOK PITY ON THE FACT THAT THE GIRL HAD BEEN ABANDONED AND KEPT HER AS AN ATTENDANT INSTEAD OF PUNISHING HER.

THAT WAS YUKAKO OMOMURO.

Q.87

Difficulty : ★★★★★★

...SO THAT SHE WOULD BECOME ANOTHER SLAVE FOR THAT HORRIFYING CHILD-EXPLOITATION RING.

WE ATTEMPTED TO RESCUE OUR SKILLED AGENT, BUT SHE WAS QUICKLY BRAINWASHED...

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO NERVOUS...

...OMO-MURO-KUN.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

A war isn't the only situation where two people can look at the same truth from opposite viewpoints. Justice and hypocrisy can exist on both sides. Truth, ideals, and even evil are not always one-sided. The only indelible truth is that I, Kogoe Horagatoge, was chosen to fill in the hole that was created when the next-generation weapon development squad was split up. Can't say this too loudly, though.

...

...WITH OUR LEADER.

HAVE FAITH AND LEAVE EVERYTHING TO HER...

...JUST AS YOU ONCE DID...

AS USUAL, I'LL FOCUS ON SUPPORTING HER...

IT'S TRUE, THOUGH. THIS IS A MATTER BEST LEFT IN THE YOUNG LADY'S HANDS.

WE ONLY WANT TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH YOU, THAT'S ALL.

DON'T MISUNDER-STAND.

BEFORE THE TAG MATCH...

...HOW ABOUT YOU AND I...

NO. IF I WERE ME...

IF I WERE IROHA IROHAZAKA RIGHT NOW...

...TREAT OURSELVES TO A PRELIMINARY SKIRMISH?

EITHER A CODE BATTLE...

...OR A DANCE BATTLE!

?

...

Q.88

Difficulty : ★★★★★

PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE. LET US BEGIN THIS IRREGULAR CODE BATTLE...

...A.K.A....

THE COMEBACK IMITATION GAME!

UH, THAT DOESN'T REALLY EXPLAIN ANYTHING...

AND IT'S TOO DARK TO REALLY TELL WHAT'S GOING ON...

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO INSIDE THIS TENT? OR IS IT A HUT?

IT'S KIND OF HARD TO BREATHE. IT FEELS LIKE I'M GONNA SUFFOCATE...

AH...

HM?

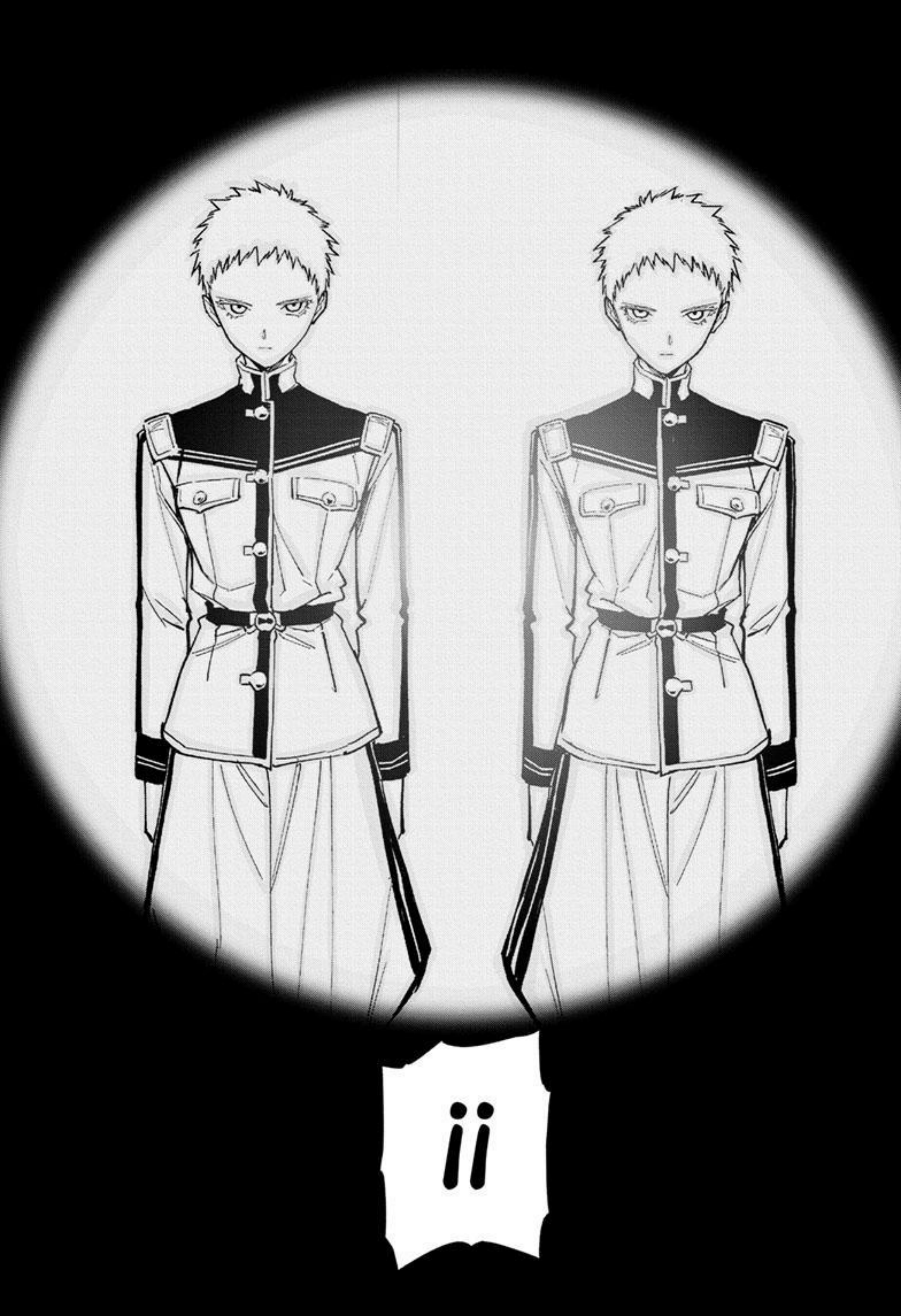
I'M GETTING DÉJÀ VU...

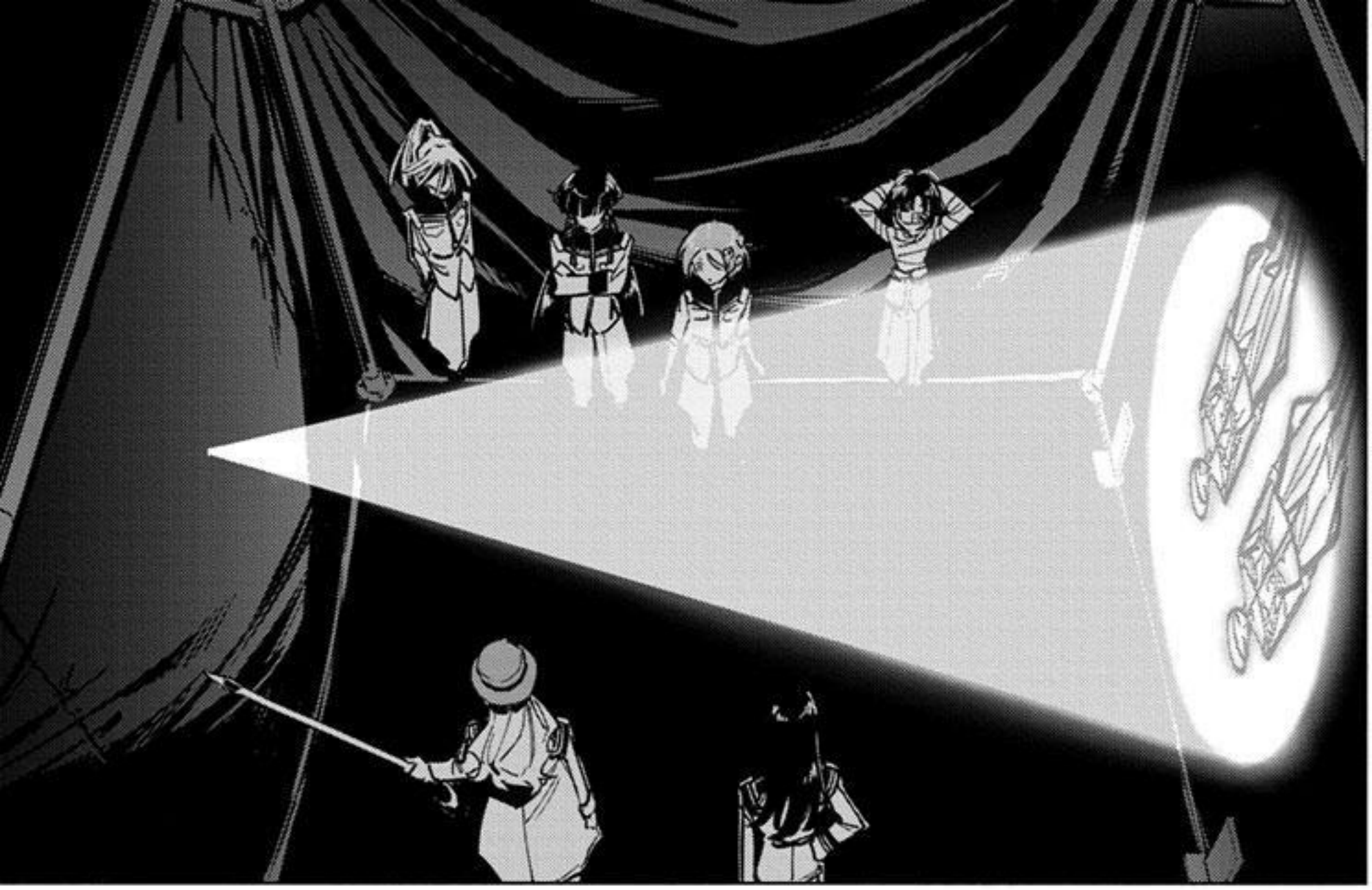
PWOOF

AHHH... CAN'T SEE ANYTHING WITHOUT YOUR GLASSES WEAPON, HUH?

MY APOLOGIES.

ALLOW ME TO CREATE A HOLE TO LET SOME LIGHT IN.


ii



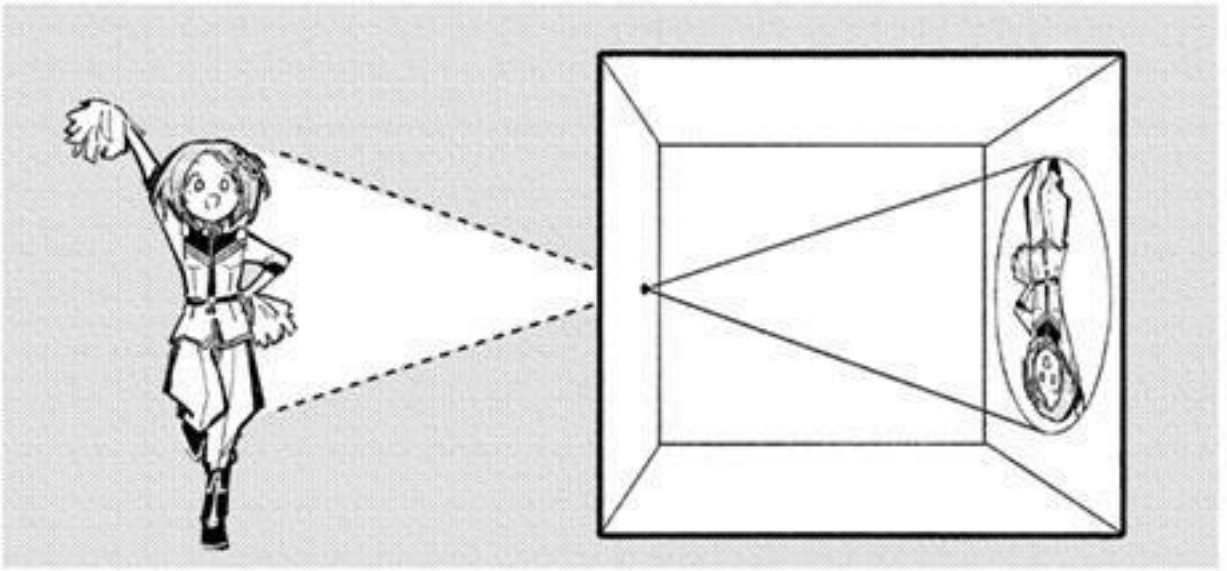

NO. THIS IS A...
HUH? WHAT IS THIS?
A PROJEC-TOR?


CAMERA OBSCURA.

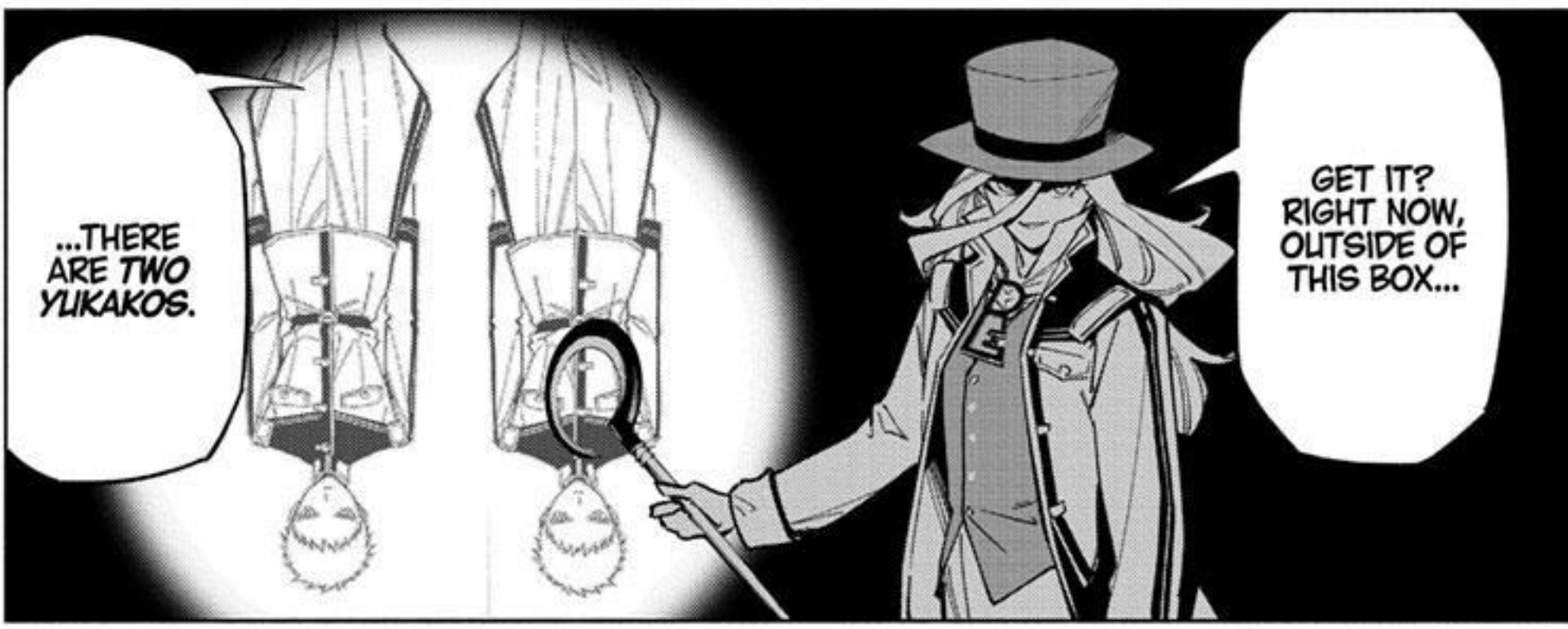
Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

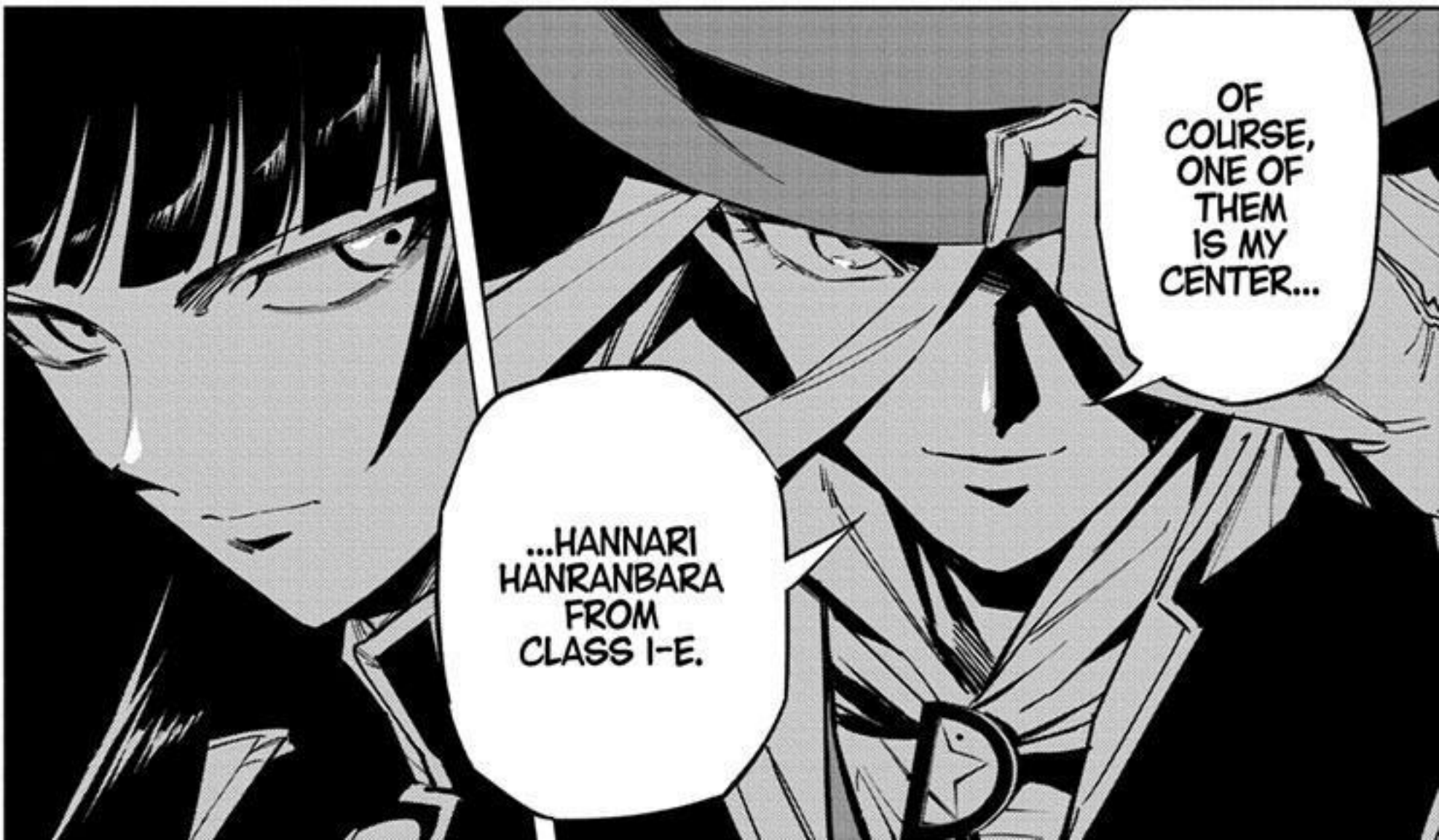
拡大版

*Expanded Version

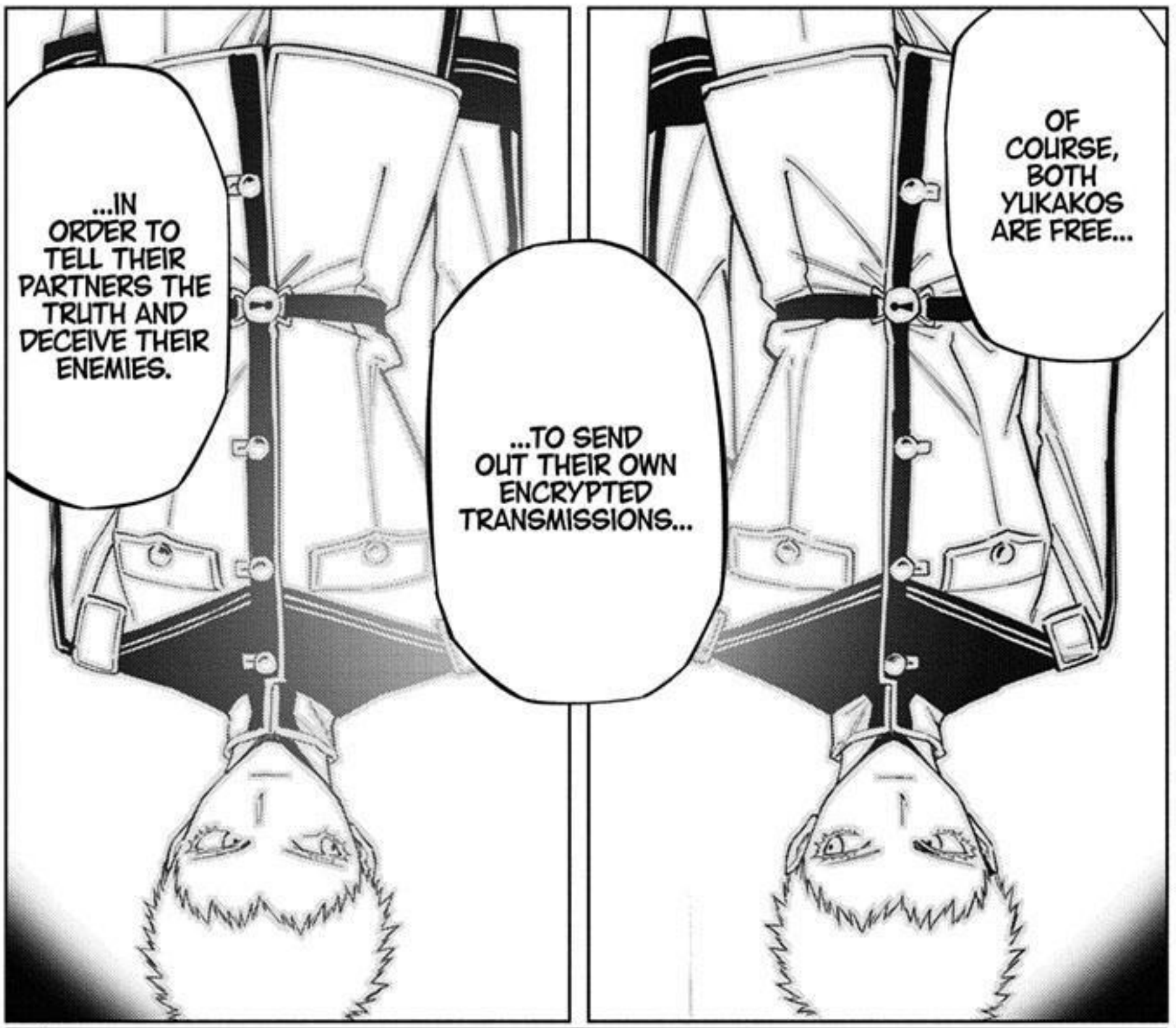


While it's understandable that Iroha imagined he was in the photography club's darkroom, a camera obscura isn't a type of camera—rather the thing that the camera was developed from. When you open up a hole in a room that's been shut off so as not to allow any light inside, a phenomenon occurs where the scenery on the outside appears upside down on a wall as if displayed from a projector. Back in the era of the camera obscura, artists utilized this phenomenon to draw realistic portraits.









Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Strictly speaking, the imitation game is meant to examine a machine's intelligence based on whether a person can tell the difference between a human and a machine acting like a human within a closed environment. If the observer can't tell which is the machine and which is the human, the machine is considered capable of thought. When one hears the word "cipherology," they often think of Alan Turing, and this test is something that he thought up. Isn't it incredible that people had already conceived of this singularity over half a century ago?

BUT HANNARI COULD NEVER LOSE TO THE CURRENT YUKAKO...

I WONDER IF THE TWO OF THEM ALREADY RAN INTO SOME SORT OF TROUBLE.

...

NOT A 50 PERCENT CHANCE, IROHAZAKA-KUN...

THIS IS A PRETTY SIMPLE GAME, CONSIDERING ALL THE WORK IT TOOK TO SET IT UP.

EVEN WITH A RANDOM GUESS, WE HAVE A 50 PERCENT CHANCE OF SUCCESS, RIGHT?

!

THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT PERSON *JUST HAPPENED* TO BE DRESSED LIKE YUKAKO...

...AND ALSO *JUST HAPPENED* TO BE STANDING OUTSIDE THE BOX NEXT TO HANRANBARA.

THE OTHER TEAM STILL HAS ONE HIDDEN MEMBER THEY'VE YET TO REVEAL.

Hokiboshi got sent to the health office though...

RIGHT! IN OTHER WORDS, THERE ARE THREE CHOICES.

IS YUKAKO ON THE RIGHT? IS YUKAKO ON THE LEFT?

...SHE'LL NEVER AGAIN BE ABLE TO CALL HERSELF YUKAKO OMOMURO'S FRIEND.

OR ARE BOTH OF THEM IMITATIONS?

IF KYORA TOSHUSAI GETS THIS WRONG...

OF COURSE IT'S THAT SERIOUS.

OF COURSE IT IS.

IS IT REALLY THAT SERIOUS?!

IT ISN'T THAT SERIOUS, KYORARIN!

To be continued!

Q.89

Difficulty:★★★★☆

what maximum to you for you at you?

...I'LL PLAY ALONG WITH YOUR PROPOSAL, OMOMURO-KUN.

SO BE IT. SINCE I LOST THIS CODE BATTLE...

...YOUR MASTER AS WELL, RIGHT?

...MAKING IT BEYOND MY MASTER'S CAPABILITY. OR RATHER...

THAT TRICK WILL INCREASE THE DIFFICULTY OF THE GAME...

ARE YOU SURE, THOUGH?

...SHE'S MY TOSHIUSAI-SAMA.

OH NO, I DISAGREE. AFTER ALL...

Hannari Hanranbara
Normally serves as Shitai's body double. Always hides behind Shitai's back.

Ranbada Hanranbara
The body double of the body double. Hid behind Shitai's back. Hid behind her little sister's back.

Shitai Kubinashi
Class leading private

Senpenbanka Hokiboshi
The class's top disguise soldier

Byu Hanagoromo
The class's top infiltration soldier

CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 29:

IF YOU KNOW THE ENEMY AND ENCRYPT YOURSELF, YOU NEED NOT FEAR THE RESULT OF A HUNDRED BATTLES.

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

...THE TWO PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE DARKROOM WHO ARE BEING PROJECTED BY THE CAMERA OBSCURA PRINCIPLE.

THE "REVERSE IMITATION GAME" CODE BATTLE.

A MULTIPLE-CHOICE GAME WHERE PLAYERS MUST IDENTIFY...

...IMITA-TIONS?

OR ARE BOTH...

IS THE ONE ON THE RIGHT YUKAKO?

...

NOW THEN, I WILL BEGIN THE INTERRO-GATION...

OR IS SHE THE ONE ON THE LEFT?

COTTON.

WHAT WAS THE NICKNAME I SPENT 32 HOURS TRYING TO CONVINCE YOU TO TAKE, YET YOU STILL REFUSED?

COTTON.

YOU HAVE NEVER LOST ONCE AGAINST ANYONE, OJO-SAMA.

WHAT IS THE TOTAL RESULT OF THE CODE BATTLES BETWEEN NONNON AND I?

YOSHUSAI-SAMA GOT 997 POINTS, TAYU-SAN GOT 800 POINTS, I GOT 920 POINTS... INCIDENTALLY, TAYU-SAN HELD BACK.

WHAT WERE OUR SELF-GRADING RESULTS FOR THE CIPHER ACADEMY ENTRANCE EXAM?

YOSHUSAI-SAMA GOT 992 POINTS, TAYU-SAN GOT 800 POINTS, I GOT 920 POINTS... INCIDENTALLY, TAYU-SAN HELD BACK.

FEBRUARY 2.
AND MINE IS
IS JANUARY 4,
TAYU-SAN'S
IS MAY 1,
SAMA'S
YOSHUSAI-

WHAT ARE ALL THREE OF OUR BIRTHDAYS?

...

THE DISGUISE TECHNIQUES OF THE UNDER-COVER OPERA-TIONS CLASS REALLY ARE FRIGHT-ENING!

THEY'RE EXACTLY THE SAME, RIGHT DOWN TO HOW THEY LAUGH!

!

YOU'RE UNUSUALLY QUIET, LA FRANCE-SAN.

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS TO ASK?

CONSIDERING HOW I'VE BEEN ABLE TO ARRANGE THE GAMES ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE JUST THE WAY I WANTED...

...YOU CAN THINK OF THIS AS A GRATUITOUS HANDICAP.

HEH HEH. NOPE.

I'VE ALREADY PRETTY MUCH FIGURED IT OUT BASED ON WHAT JUST HAPPENED.

AND I'M SURE CIPHER ACADEMY HAS THEIR OWN PROJECTORS AND SIMILAR COMMUNICATION DEVICES...

ASSUMING THAT WE WERE LOOKING DIRECTLY AT THEM STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER, SOMETHING WOULD BE GIVEN AWAY (LIKE WITH MY DOUBLE).

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY WERE USING A CAMERA OBSCURA.

TRUE...

A HANDICAP...

IROHA-ZAKA-KUN.

BUT IF I WERE TO THINK OF AN INSTANCE WHEN WE DO...

YES!

WE NORMALLY NEVER LOOK AT THINGS FROM THIS ANGLE!

BUT LOOKING AT THEM PROJECTED UPSIDE DOWN LIKE THIS MAKES IT SOMEWHAT... NO, CLEARLY HARD TO FIGURE OUT!

...ASKING ME TO READ THEIR EXPRESSIONS FROM THE SIDE IS...

IF YOU TOLD ME TO DIE, I'D HAPPILY DIE, BUT...

HUH?! NO WAY!

?!

...SINCE YOU'RE OUR LEADER?

MAY I ASK YOU FOR SOME ADVICE...

?!

WHAT I WANT IS A CHEERLEADER'S ADVICE.

TEACH ME HOW TO DO *THAT THING* YOU WERE DOING BEFORE.

You think I'd ever tell you to die?

?!

SHUTAN TOO, THEN. SHUTAN'S NOT GOOD AT THAT KINDA STUFF, THOUGH...

?!

ME TOO, THEN.

I CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH YOU TWO DO THAT.

AH!

WAIT! YOU PEOPLE ARE A FAR CRY FROM MOBS...

YOU CAN'T ACT LIKE A FLASH MOB IN ALL THIS DARKNESS!

BESIDES, EVEN IF WE STOOD ON OUR HEADS, THERE'S NO WAY—

THUD

BWAP

BWAP

BWAP

THE REAL YUKAKO IS ON THE RIGHT.

OR AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW IT APPEARS. IT'S ACTUALLY THE LEFT YUKAKO.

OKAY, I GOT IT.

TOK

OR AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW IT APPEARS. BOTH ARE IMITATIONS ...

WELL, AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW...

Both are real

...IT APPEARS.

!!

TO BE MORE PRECISE, BOTH ARE *IMAGES* OF THE REAL ONE...

...BUT THEY'RE BEING CREATED FROM...

...YUKAKO, WHO'S STANDING OUTSIDE THE CAMERA OBSCURA BOX...

...ALONG WITH LIGHT REFLECTED OFF A MIRROR THAT'S REFLECTING HER.

DID THEY FIGHT A CODE BATTLE CONNECTED TO THE NUMBER FOUR?

I TOLD HANNARI THAT THEY COULD CHOOSE ANY OF THE THREE CHOICES...

...BUT TO THINK THERE'D BE A FOURTH.

WHAT A VERY...

...YUKAKO OMOMURO-ESQUE THING TO SAY.

THE PAST YUKAKO AND THE CURRENT YUKAKO...

...ARE BOTH REAL.

SO, WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?

I'M NOT TAYUTAN...

...BUT CAN YOU PLEASE STOP TALKING LIKE YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER?

OMOMURO-SAN...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Even if they purposefully made the uniforms symmetrical (or perhaps modified the uniform) like they did with the hair for Iroha's double, it wouldn't make sense that even the belt holes would be symmetrical, which is how it's possible to figure out that they're using a mirror.

Both
are real

AN
IMITATION
ANSWER.

A
COMEBACK
VICTORY?

NOT
THIS
TIME.

CLASS 1-A ATTAINED VICTORY...

...IN THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE ONGOING GRADEWIDE LEADER TOURNA-MENT!

YAY

THE VICTORS ARE KYORA TOSHIISAI AND YUKAKO OMOMURO!

THE TOTAL SCORE SO FAR IS 4 TO 0! THEREFORE...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

拡大版

*Expanded Edition

what maximum to you for you at you?

The sentence means something like "what is the maximum thing aimed at you, for you, to you?" but it should appear strange that the first letter isn't a capital letter. Then, if we were to make the rest of the letters all capitals...

"WHAT MAXIMUM TO YOU FOR YOU AT YOU"

We would see that the letters of the alphabet that make up most of the words are symmetrical. But what about the word "FOR," the only exception? If we realize that out of "AHIMOTUVWXY," the only symmetrical letter of the alphabet that wasn't used in this sentence was "V," we'd arrive at our answer. In other words, "FOR," or "FOUR," or "IV."

"WHAT MAXIMUM TO YOU IV YOU AT YOU"
Now all of the letters are symmetrical.

By raising the difficulty to the maximum, Yukako made it a game that only Kyora-san could solve. In other words, a game "aimed at Kyora-san, for Kyora-san, to Kyora-san." Yukako suggested using a "mirror" for a "symmetry" trick with "four" choices to the Hanranbara sisters...a literal code transmission.



"BATTLEFIELD DANCER"? NEVER HEARD OF THEM.

AS YOU GUESSED, WE'RE THE UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS CLASS.

DECODING AND ANALYSIS ARE OUTSIDE OUR AREA OF EXPERTISE.

THIS ONE-SIXTH OF THE CODE KEY...

...IS ALSO SIMPLY SOMETHING WE ACQUIRED DURING OUR UNDERCOVER MANEUVERS.

I'll just give it to you now.

OH...

"THEY'RE THE ONE CLASS I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT"...

...IS ANOTHER ONE OF MY PERSONAL OPINIONS.

MY PERSONAL OPINION...

...IS THAT CLASS B EXCELS IN *THAT SORT OF THING.*

Q.90

Difficulty : ★★☆☆☆

Ojigi Jigino
Class 1-B #11

YUKU UMI GA ITARU GAKE YAMABA WA IKE.
(THE CLIFF REACHED BY THE PROCEEDING OCEAN. THE CLIMAX IS THE LAKE.)

Sunazuna Kogecha
Class 1-B #8

DOSOU NO KAEN.
(THE FLAMES OF A BURIAL.)

Arukuni Ikishiro
Class 1-B #2

DEMON MONOLIGE DE TAMASHII KA YO.
(A LANGUID DEMON. A SOUL?)

ポイ TOSS

Quokka Eteshite
Class 1-B #3

DATENSHISHIKI O ODORU IE MIGARU?
(NIMBLE ON TOP OF DANCING THE FALLEN ANGLE STYLE?)

Tonbo Rikukeito
Class 1-B #19
(Class leading private)

NAZO NI GIMONSHI? NA KOI.
(STRANGE DOUBT. A ? ROMANCE.)

TOSS ポイ

SWIP SWIP SWIP

To be continued!





Q. 91

Difficulty : ★★☆☆☆



*COME HERE

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

①	FALSEHOODS	
②	BAMBOOZLE	
③	SATIRIST	
④	TREASON	
⑤	FORGER	
⑥	BOAST	
⑦	MYTH	
⑧	VOW	
⑨	NG	
⑩		E

Horizontal Clues

① STATEMENTS with LIES — FALSEHOODS
② DECEPTION you like for CONFUSION — BAMBOOZLE
③ Likes FOLLY — SATIRIST
④ Another word for BETRAYAL — TREASON
⑤ PERSON in DECEPTION — FORGER
⑥ BRAGGERS do this — BOAST
⑦ A(n) STORY of LEGEND — MYTH
⑧ Use this to PROMISE — VOW
⑨ The OPPOSITE of GOOD — NG
⑩ Another word for ELECTRONIC — E

Vertical Clue

☆ What is your name? — HORAGATOGE

Chapter 30:
JUST BECAUSE MILITARY FUNDS ARE HIGH DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE NOBLE

CIPHER ACADEMY

...THE "BLOOD" IS ALSO A MESSAGE.

IT WAS WRITTEN IN BLOOD, RIGHT?

MEANING ...

N

E

O

B

THE WORD FOR "CEMETERY" IN JAPANESE, KOGOE-HAN.

BOEN.

Anonymity Requested's One-Point Lesson

Obviously, the letters were written in Morse code. The puzzle was written for fun in Morse code just like the buttons on the meal-ticket machine. It's nothing special once you realize what's going on... If they had instead used *haka*, the most common word for "grave," it would have required them to draw the same bloodstain twice for both *a*'s. That would have stood out, so they utilized some sassy ingenuity and went with *boen* since it's written with four different letters.

...THE ONE WHO CALLED YOU OUT IS MOST LIKELY *YOU-KNOW-WHO*, RIGHT?

THAT'S PROBABLY THE MAIN MESSAGE OF THE BLOOD-STAINED CODE.

HEAD OUT? IF THEY INVITED YOU TO A GRAVEYARD...

THANKS FOR THE HELP, ANONYMITY REQUESTED-SAN. ♡

OH WELL, GUESS I'LL HEAD OUT.

DO THEY THINK I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO ORDERS CORN DOGS FROM THAT THING?

...

SOMETHING RIDICULOUS.

...JUST WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING THIS TIME?

I KNOW YOU'RE WORKING WITH IROHAZAKA AND TOSHUSAI...

...BUT EVEN IF YOUR LACK OF INTEGRITY HASN'T CHANGED...

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M IN A POSITION TO BE WORRYING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.

WELL...

I NEED TO DECIDE WHERE I STAND AS WELL...

...BEFORE WE GET INVOLVED WITH CLASS F.

SERVICE TO THE READERS. ♡

CIPHER GRAVEYARD (LIMITED OUTING AREA)

THE MOMENT A STUDENT ENTERS CIPHER ACADEMY...

...A GRAVE IS SIMUL-TANEOUSLY PREPARED FOR THEM.

I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, KOGOE-SAN.

PLEASE BETRAY CLASS A AND JOIN CLASS D.

拓榴口接吻

*Seppun Zakuroguchi

...

WHAT PURPOSE DOES BEATING AROUND THE BUSH SERVE?

YOU ALWAYS GET RIGHT TO THE POINT, SEPPUN-SAN.

...WITHOUT LEAVING BEHIND A WILL.

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU COULD DIE TOMORROW...

...THE VOICES OF THE DEAD WILL ALWAYS REACH *US*.

AL-THOUGH ...

EVEN IF ONE WERE TO DIE WITHOUT LEAVING A MESSAGE BEHIND...

I FEEL SO GRATEFUL I'M GETTING CHILLS.

SO YOU WANT TO KNOW MY LAST WORDS, HUH?

Kogoe Horagatoge
Class 1-M solo soldier

WE'RE CLASS I-D, AFTER ALL.

THE DYING-MESSAGE DECODING CLASS.

Seppun Zakuroguchi
Class 1-D leading private

HOW SHOULD I DECODE...

...A MADE-UP STORY LIKE THAT?

"ACQUIRING THE 50 BILLION MORG CRYPTO ASSETS..."

"...IN ORDER TO STOP HALF THE WORLD'S WARS"?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING, BUT I AM INTRIGUED.

WHAT DO YOU TRULY SEEK TO TAKE TO YOUR GRAVE?

PEOPLE OFTEN SAY THAT HUMANKIND AND WAR ARE INSEPARABLE.

THAT TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION, MEDICINE, POLITICS, AND EVEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHIVALRY...

...ALL BECAME POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF WAR.

AND THEY'RE RIGHT. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...

...YOU CAN ALSO SAY THAT WITHOUT PEACEFUL ERAS WHEN PEOPLE'S LIVES WEREN'T THREATENED...

...THINGS LIKE SPORTS, MUSIC, ART, DANCE, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, PURE LOVE...

...WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN BORN.

TRUE.

I BET IT'D BE HARD TO SERIALIZE A ROM-COM MANGA...

I'M AN ENGINEER AND AN INVENTOR...

...SO IT'S HARD FOR ME TO IMAGINE AN ERA WITHOUT SMARTPHONES AND THE INTERNET.

...IN A "PROSPEROUS" ERA.

I THINK THINGS LIKE TANKS AND MISSILES ARE COOL AS WELL.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I'M A GENIUS...

...SO MY HEART GOES OUT TO ARCHIMEDES, WHO GOT WRAPPED UP IN WAR.

MY POINT IS, IT'S A QUESTION OF DEGREE, SEPPUN-SAN.

IT'D NATURALLY BE BETTER IF WE COULD GET RID OF WARS WHERE GOOD-NATURED CITIZENS ARE MASSACRED...

...BUT WE CAN'T ALLOW PEACE FILLED WITH INDOLENCE AND DECADENCE EITHER.

SO YOU DON'T NEED TO DECODE MY LIE.

I'M GOING TO LET THE "PROFITABLE WARS" EXIST...

...AND STOP THE "DETRIMENTAL WARS."

IT'LL BE POSSIBLE WITH COMPLETED GLASSES WEAPONS.

AND IF I EVER THINK TO MYSELF, "HM, MAYBE WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH WARS RIGHT NOW"...

...THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO RESTART THEM WHENEVER I WANT.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

I'm sure I shouldn't have to explain who Archimedes is, but one can never say enough about his final moments. While he was fully concentrated on a mathematical diagram during war, a soldier found him, thought he was crazy, and killed him. How many other geniuses have been killed by war? I don't want to think about it, but personally I think it's a six-star problem.

TECHNICAL CONTROL OVER SUSTAIN-ABLE WARS.

THAT'S MY DREAM.

I SEE. A GENIUS IDEA.

HOWEVER ...

CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, THOUGH.

...IT'S ALSO AN INHUMAN ONE.

...ALL THE MORE REASON FOR YOU TO GO FROM CLASS A TO D.

STILL, I DON'T THINK THAT'S ALL YOU'RE UP TO.

IN WHICH CASE...

...WILL WIN...

...THE CONTINUOUS GRADEWIDE LEADER TOURNAMENT.

ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING HOW CLASS D...

THAT REMINDS ME, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU...

WHAT'S YOUR DREAM, SEPPUN-SAN?

THEY DON'T WANT ME BECAUSE THEY THINK IT'LL HELP THEM WIN?

TO BUILD A PYRAMID.

KINGS, SLAVES... THERE WILL BE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN ANYONE.

I WILL NAME IT "THE CIPHER PYRAMID."

THEREFORE, I WANT TO USE THE CRYPTO ASSETS TO CREATE A PYRAMID...

...THAT'S AS LARGE AS MOUNT EVEREST AND CAPABLE OF HOUSING 7.7 BILLION PEOPLE.

IN WHICH CASE, THESE GRAVES WON'T BE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE.

CIPHER ACADEMY WAS CREATED AS PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT WORLD WAR...

...WHICH I THINK WILL BE THE END OF HUMANITY.

...MY NIGHTMARE.

THAT IS...

IT'S ALSO VERY HUMAN, SO IT JUST BOOSTED YOUR LIKABILITY A GREAT DEAL.

BUT...

NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE A RIDICULOUS JOINT BURIAL.

DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANYTHING GOOD COMES FROM BEING LIKED BY YOU.

SO? WHAT NOW, KOGOE-SAN?

SETTING ASIDE THE CLASS-ON-CLASS BATTLES...

...I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT YOUR GENIUS WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE CYBERBRAIN BATTLES TO COME.

IF YOU WERE TO SWITCH OVER TO CLASS D NOW...

...I COULD PREPARE A SUITE FOR YOU WITHIN CIPHER PYRAMID.

I'LL FULLY SUPPORT YOUR DREAM...

...JUST LIKE THE EXECUTION OF A DYING MESSAGE.

WAR AS YOU LIKE.

...UNTIL HUMANITY GOES EXTINCT.

CONTROL TECHNOLOGY, CULTURE, AND PURE LOVE...

...

I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

DON'T NEED THE SUITE, THOUGH.

I LIKE IT QUITE A BIT.

PEOPLE SO GOOD THEY'LL ACTUALLY BELIEVE THE LIES I TELL...

...EVEN IF IT MEANS THEY'LL DIE LIKE DOGS.

SORRY, THOUGH.

I CHOOSE GOOD PEOPLE OVER GOOD STORIES.

BUT IROHA HIMSELF WAS NOT ONLY LATE TO THE BATTLE...

...HE DIDN'T EVEN TAKE PART IN IT.

SO WHAT?

IT'S TRUE THAT CLASS A UTTERLY DEFEATED CLASS E.

IF SO, THEN HOW UNLIKE YOU.

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT IROHA IROHAZAKA?

"YOU CAN BECOME A HERO WITHOUT EVEN FIGHTING."

THAT'S MY DREAM.

OH MY.

RETURNING FROM CLASS D'S TERRITORY, ARE WE?

I SEE YOU NEVER TIRE OF YOUR SECRET MANEUVERS.

LET ME GUESS. THEY MADE YOU A NICE OFFER...

...AND YOU WEIGHED THE PROS AND CONS OF BOTH SIDES, JUST AS ALWAYS, RIGHT?

...

HEE HEE HEE.

I CAN NEVER HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU, KYORA-SAN!

YOU KNOW ME SO WELL!

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

WHAM

WE GOT TROUBLE, IROHAZAKA!

THE CODE BATTLE BETWEEN CLASSES D AND F—!

Chapter 31:

A WAR THAT HAPPENS A SECOND TIME WILL ALSO HAPPEN A THIRD TIME

?

WHAT?

Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki

THAT'S THE THING! D INVITED F...

(I DIDN'T COMPLIMENT YOU THAT MUCH.) SO? WHO WON BETWEEN D AND F?

SHUT UP!

WHO ARE YOU CALLING THE HIKOICHI AIDA OF CIPHER ACADEMY ?!

...YOU'RE REALLY ONE OF CLASS A'S TREASURES, BOTAYAMA-SAN.

NAH, I WAS JUST THINKING, AMONG THE MANY CHARACTERS WHO ALWAYS LOOK CALM...

Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

...WILL BE MOVING ON TO THE FINAL ROUND!

...TO FORM AN ALLIANCE, AND THEY'VE ACCEPTED!

IN OTHER WORDS, D AND F'S *UNITED TEAM*...

DURING THE OTHER BATTLE THAT I WENT OUT TO SCOUT...

AND THAT'S NOT ALL, IROHAZAKA-KUN.

KARI-GANE-SAN!

?!

RATTLE ガタッ

...HAD TAKEN THIS INTO CONSIDERATION FROM THE START. LIKE IT WAS INEVITABLE.

...CLASSES B AND C ALSO FORMED AN ALLIANCE.

IT WAS AS IF BOTH TEAMS...

...WHILE THE TWO ALLIED FORCES TRY TO SNIPE US.

WHICH MEANS THAT IN THE THREE-WAY FINAL ROUND, CLASS A WILL BE ALONE...

IT'S FAIR, EN-CHAN.

BOTH ALLIANCES AND MAKING PEACE...

...ARE PARTS OF WAR, AFTER ALL.

B-BUT MAKING AN ALLIANCE DURING A TOURNAMENT ISN'T FAIR!

AND I'M SURE THEY'RE ONLY MAKING PEACE WITH THE INTENT TO DISSOLVE THE ALLIANCE RIGHT AFTER THE FINAL ROUND...

...AND WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT FIGHTING CLASS E.

I GOT EXCITED...

THIS IS MY FAULT. I LET MYSELF GET CARRIED AWAY.

...BUT HE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE ATTAINED SUCH A TOTAL VICTORY THAT ELIMINATED THAT OPTION.

TAK TAK TAK

TOMP TOMP

TRUE. THE USUAL IROHA-KUN...

...MIGHT NOT HAVE TRIED TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE WITH CLASS E...

*Book: Cryptanalysis

SO WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GATHER UP THE PRIDE OF CLASS A...

...IN OTHER WORDS, OUR SIX STRONGEST...

...AND OVERCOME THE FACTIONS THAT WAY.

INSTRUCTOR IKUSU JUST NOTIFIED US.

THE FINAL ROUND WILL BE A SIX-ON-SIX.

YOSAI-MURA-SAN!

ANONY-MITY-SAN!

WHY SIX?

I'LL BE ONE OF THE SIX. I CAN'T LET THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE WHO I RECOMMENDED...

...BECOME A WAR CRIMINAL, AFTER ALL.

SHE'S SOOO COOL!

ASSUMING THAT IRO-IRO AND TOSHIUSAI-SAN, THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF THE FINAL ROUND OF THE LEADING PRIVATE BATTLE, ARE ALSO IN...

...WE ONLY NEED TWO MORE.

!

I FEEL THE SAME WAY. C'MON, YOU SHOULD BE OVERWHELMED WITH JOY.

YOUR FORMER FOE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART AND RETURNED TO YOUR SIDE!

...

MORE THAN ANYONE...

YEAH.

AND OBORO-SAN AND KOSHIBAI-SAN DON'T EXCEL IN GROUP BATTLES...

IF WE WERE TO BASE IT ON NORMAL GRADES, IT'D BE US TWO OR MAMUSHI-HISHIMEKI.

BUT THE TOP CHOICE HERE WOULD BE NOHIME, RIGHT?

"THE TRAUMA PRODUCER"...

...IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT OUR STRONGEST MEMBERS, SHE IS THE ONE PERSON WE CAN'T OMIT.

THE ONE WHO MADE SURE WE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH CLASS E IN THE FIRST BATTLE.

NO.

I DON'T LIKE BULLYING THE WEAK.

...WE'LL TAKE THE ALLIED FORCES BY SURPRISE.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY...

THAT'S WHY IT'LL WORK AS AN AMBUSH.

I KNOW. THE REASON YOU FOUGHT IN THE FIRST BATTLE...

NO ONE'S EXPECTING YOU TO TAKE PART IN THE FINAL ROUND.

...WAS FOR OMOMURO-SAN, RIGHT?

IF YOU INSIST, THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE ONE I SERVE.

I'M AN UNDERLING WHO FOLLOWS ORDERS.

THERE'S NO POINT IN THAT.

IT'S MY FAULT WE'RE IN THIS CRISIS.

I WANT YOU TO HELP US, YUGATA-SAN...

...AS MY FRIEND.

STAAARE

GUESS WHAT I'M THINKING RIGHT NOW.

...

YOU'RE GOOD AT READING PEOPLE'S EXPRES-SIONS, RIGHT?

HUH?

I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE, SO I BROUGHT SOME.

HEH HEH!

YOU BROUGHT DYSON'S AIR PURIFYING HEAD-PHONES?

CORRECT.

Wow.

YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT DYSON'S AIR PURIFYING HEADPHONES, RIGHT?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Their official name is Dyson WP01 BB. They're headphones created by a manufacturer known for their cyclone vacuum cleaners. They also come with a noise-canceling feature, allowing you to listen to high-quality music while you breathe in purified air. Can't say this too loudly, but I wish I'd invented them.

I REQUEST A DUEL!

THE TYPE OF MATCH, OF COURSE...

...WILL BE A VERBAL SLIP CUT BY HALF QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION!

バラ

FWP

HE CHALLENGED YUGATA-SAN...

...TO A LIPOGRAM-BASED CODE BATTLE, OF ALL THINGS...

VERBAL SLIP CUT BY HALF QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION...

ISN'T THAT THE LEGAL TORTURE GAME...

...THAT TRAUMA-TIZED YOU, IROHA-ZAKA?!

OH... THAT REMINDS ME.

I NEVER COLLECTED THOSE KANA CARDS.

...

I DON'T MIND TAKING PART UNDER TWO CONDITIONS.

THAT'S ELEMENTARY.

WHAT'S THE SECOND CONDI-TION?

GRP

PICK WHATEVER 23 KANA SYLLABLES YOU LIKE BEFORE WE START.

I'LL PLAY USING THE REMAINING 23.

FLIP

あ

FIRST CONDI-TION.

WE USE BABY RULES THIS TIME.

*Card: "A" in hiragana

...YOU CAN NEVER CALL ME YOUR FRIEND AGAIN.

SECOND CONDITION.

IF YOU LOSE...

KOGOE...

IF IT GETS TO THE POINT WHERE I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH IT ANY FURTHER, I'M GOING TO INTERRUPT THEM, OKAY?

SHE'S TRYING TO DEAL EVEN MORE TRAUMA THAN BEFORE BY WINNING DESPITE GIVING HIM A RIDICULOUS HANDICAP...

FWSH

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Okay.

Q.92

わ×やま××××かあ
×　みひ×ち×××
×××むふめつす××
れ　めへねてせ×え
××××ほ××そこ×

wa x ya ma x x x x ka a
x mi hi x chi x x x
x x x mu fu nu tsu su x x
re me he ne te se x e
x x x x ho x x so ko x

×ら××はなたさ××
り　××に×しきい
をるゆ××××××くう
×　××××××け×
んろよも×のと××お

x ra x x ha na ta sa x x
ri x x ni x shi ki i
wo ru yu x x x x x ku u
x x x x x x ke x
n ro yo mo x no to x x o

REVENGE!

IROHA-ZAKA IROHA VS. YUGATA TAYU!!

Difficulty: ★★★☆☆

IT'S MORE RANDOM THAN NORMAL RANDOM RESULTS WOULD BE...

DON'T TELL ME HE'S TRYING TO WIN WITHOUT A HANDICAP?

WHAT THE—? IROHA-KUN MADE A WEIRD SELECTION HERE...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Reposting the game rules here. Give each player half of the 50 kana syllables (in this case, 46), then start questioning each other. You can ask as many questions as you like in a row, but you can't ask a question until you answer a question you've been asked. The first person to make a verbal slip loses. Voiced consonants and semivoiced consonants are treated the same as their original syllables. The prolonged sound mark ("–") is treated as the vowel sound of the previous syllable. Normally, the cards are shuffled and dealt out before the game begins.

呵呵画家って父が
筆ネーム、見せれて？

群れへ捕まって、
伏せぬ庇護あって出れて？

ミスAって？

チッス初めって
明かせて？

WHAT IS THE PEN NAME OF THE FATHER OF POLITICAL MANGA?

HOW DID THE THIEF ESCAPE FROM IMPRISONMENT?

WHO DO YOU THINK IS CUTEST IN OUR CLASS?

WHEN AND WHO WAS YOUR FIRST KISS WITH?

*The questions are phrased in a confusing manner using only the syllables she's been given.

THESE QUESTIONS ARE BEYOND EVIL!

SHE WENT IN FOR THE KILL WITHOUT ANY HESITATION!

IROHAZAKA-KUN'S VOCABULARY HAS BEEN HALVED, BUT HE CAN'T MAKE ANY EXCUSES THIS TIME!

HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO ANSWER, FAIR AND SQUARE!

BUT ANY TRUE CIPHER SOLDIER SHOULD WANT TO KNOW!

AN INTERVIEW THAT'S IN SUCH BAD TASTE, IT CALLS INTO QUESTION THE CHARACTER OF THE PERSON GIVING IT...

暗号解読

I DUNNO, MAYBE IT'S THAT AUTHOR YOU'RE A FAN OF. ♪

PERHAPS SHE WAS NORMALLY A GOOD PERSON, SO THAT WAS HER REWARD.

EVERYONE'S EQUALLY NUMBER ONE TO ME!

I DON'T REMEMBER, BUT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WITH MY DAD. (LOL)

ヒョー
WHOOSH

さち、きみも読んでる名だったりしち♪

いつものおこないのよさに由来っちどう?

みんなおのおの公平にベストだっちば!

記憶にないけどパパとだったりしち
(にこっ)

SHOO
ミュッ

...FUDGE HIS ANSWERS IN A REALLY VAGUE WAY?

HUH? DID HE JUST KINDA...

!!

IT SOUNDED MORE LIKE...

...IRO-IRO ANSWERED WITH WEIRD FALSETTO SOUNDS HERE AND THERE...

*Top line: i o ku shi to n

いおくしとん

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

こみへつすて

*Bottom line (the same letters turned upside down / sideways):
ko mi he tsu su te

AH.

ICE COLD READING...

...HE CREATED SIX MORE SYLLABLES THAT CAN BE USED!

×ら××はなたさ××
り み×に×しきい
をるゆ×××つすくう
× ×へ×ろ×け×
んろよも×のと×ヨお

USING THE INTERPRETATION THAT THE KANA CARDS CAN BE ROTATED AND MIRRORED...

...SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS QUESTION!

NO, YOSAIMURA-SAN. I MADE MY SELECTION...

FWAH...

I SEEEE! SO THAT'S WHY HE SELECTED WHAT HE DID!

NO NO いや いや

SMAK ポン!

WITH THAT MUCH, HE SHOULD EASILY BE ABLE TO EVADE ANY KIND OF HARSH QUESTION!

BEING ABLE TO USE A TOTAL OF 29 SYLLABLES IS BASICALLY THE SAME AS 46!

...SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST CALL HER KYORARIN?

TAYUTAN, TOSHUSAI-SAN IS YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND...

HOW BRILLIANT. I ACCEPT IT...

MY LOSS?

NO, I ACCEPT YOU.

FWSH

YEAH... THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D BE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT...

I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOU TO THE FINALS. THAT'S WHAT I PROMISED, AFTER ALL.

AND ONCE YOU GAIN FIVE MORE LEVELS, I'LL PLAY WITH YOU.

!

YOU REALLY DON'T MIND, YUGATA-SAN?!

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE USING A CHEAT CODE OR SOME-THING.

I ONLY WISH I COULD...

...INTERPRET THINGS AS CONVEN-IENTLY AS YOU.

IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO GO ON CALLING YOU MY FRIEND?!

...BUT I FEEL LIKE EVEN WITH 23 SYLLABLES, YUGATA-SAN COULD HAVE EASILY HANDLED A FEW QUESTIONS...

...

SEEMS LIKE EVERYTHING ENDED WELL...

I JUST HOPE IT DOESN'T BECOME HER ACHILLES' HEEL DURING THE FINALS...

IS THAT TO SAY SHE WAS AGAINST EVEN FUDGING A QUESTION RELATED TO HER RELATIONSHIP TO TOSHIISAI-SAN?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

To further explain Karigane's comment, Yugata could have also used the trick Iroha employed. She's got half of the one-way-esque words. The syllable "o" could be converted into "mi" and "n" could be converted into "te," but "mi" is hard to turn into "o." It's also hard to turn "t" into "n." Even Iroha could only barely change "to" into "su." I can imagine that Yugata wouldn't use that since she's the one who proposed baby rules to begin with, though.

OPERATION THREE-WAY WAR, A.K.A. THE TWO-FRONT WAR.

THE GREAT POWERS VS. THE STRONGEST ...

...NOW BEGINS!

ギューン TA-DAAA

LOOM

To be continued!

Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Story by Nisioisin

Q.93

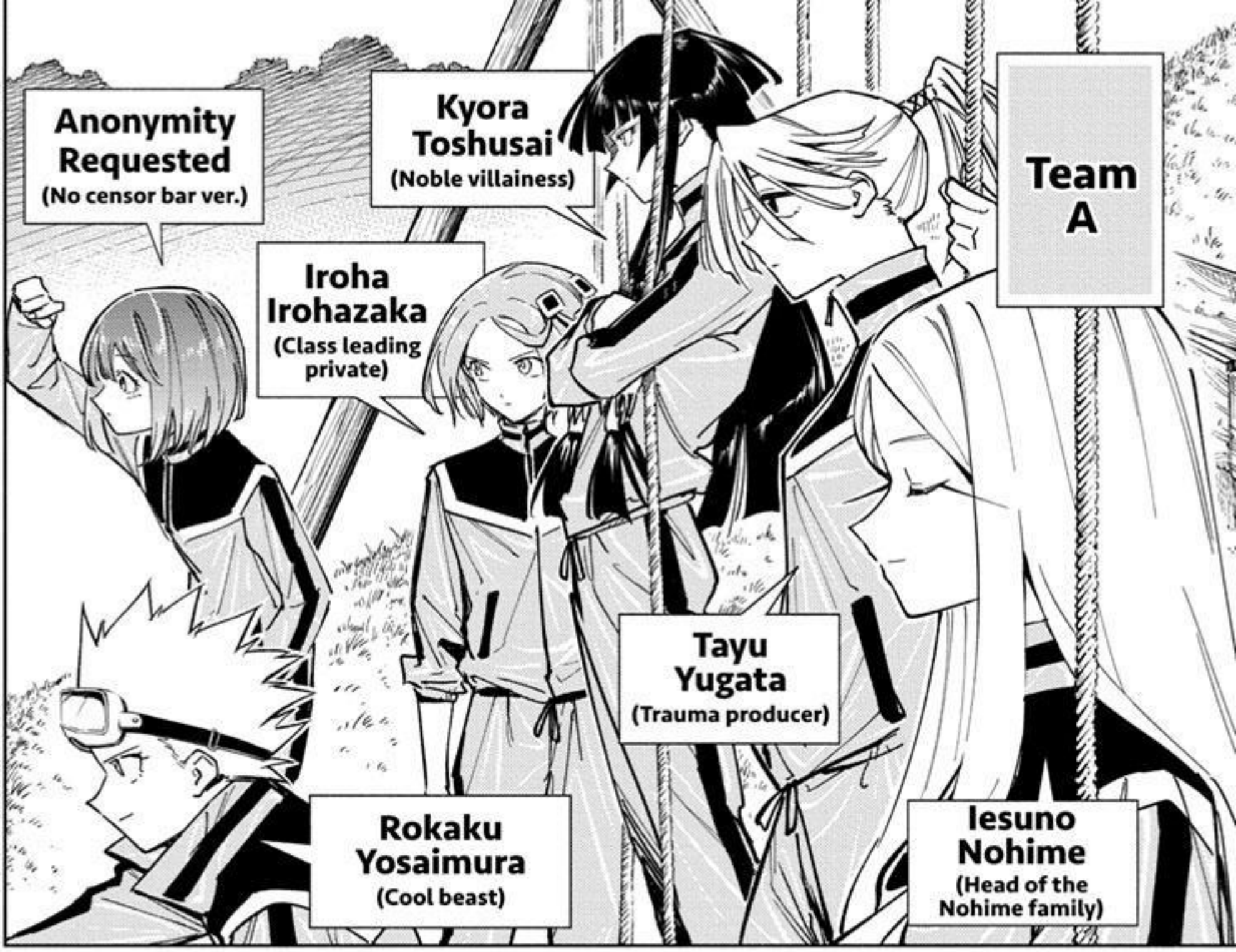
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Outro

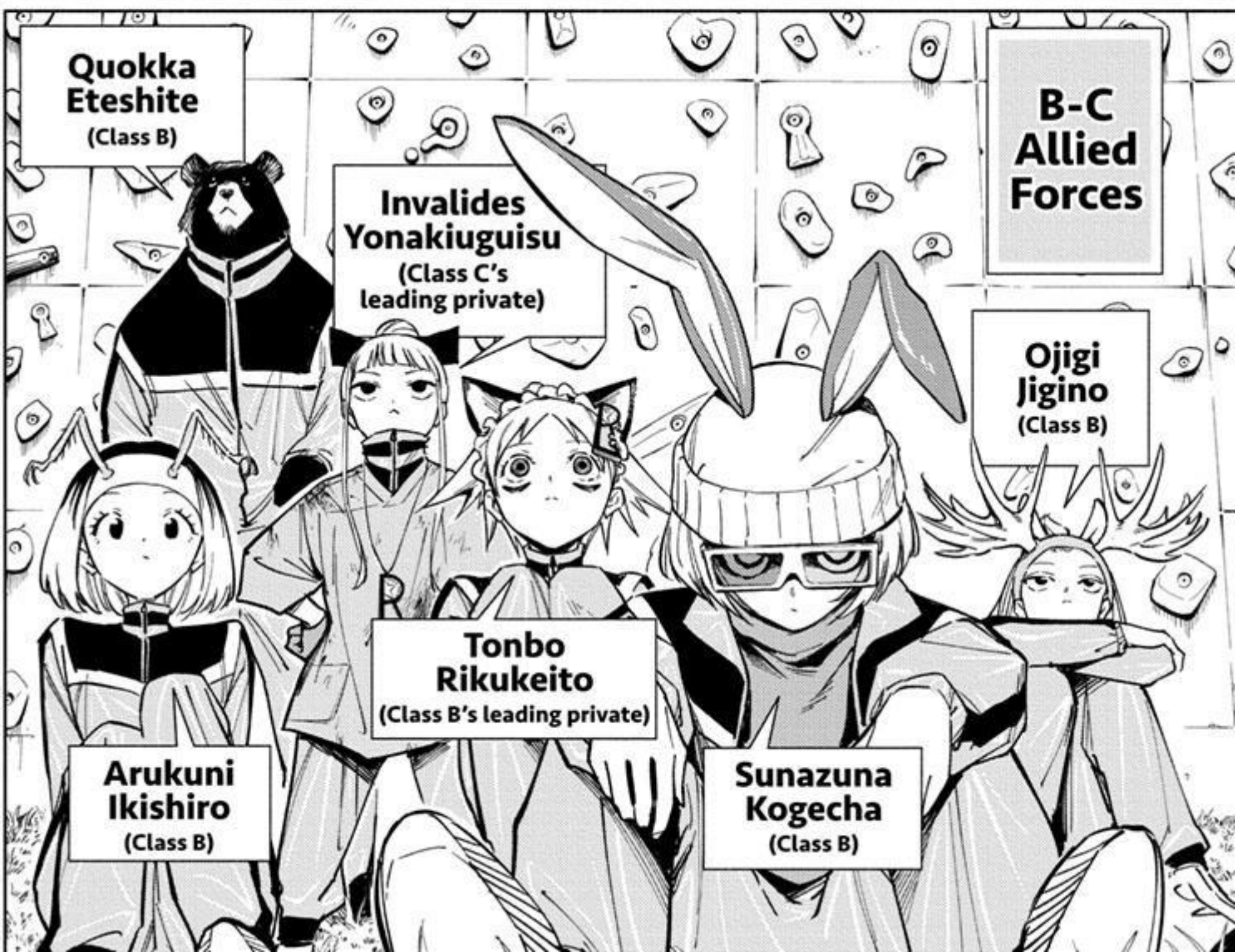
Difficulty: ★★★★★



CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 32: A SOUND MIND IS IN A SOUND WAR


Anonymity Requested
(No censor bar ver.)
Kyora Toshusai
(Noble villainess)
Team A
Iroha Irohazaka
(Class leading private)
Tayu Yugata
(Trauma producer)
Rokaku Yosaimura
(Cool beast)
Iesuno Nohime
(Head of the Nohime family)


Quokka Eteshite
(Class B)
Invalides Yonakiuguisu
(Class C's leading private)
B-C Allied Forces
Ojigi Jigino
(Class B)
Tonbo Rikukeito
(Class B's leading private)
Arukuni Ikishiro
(Class B)
Sunazuna Kogecha
(Class B)

D-F Allied Forces

Shakunage Hakanage
(Class F's leading private)

Methanegas Mengatasuzume
(Class D)

Seppun Zakuroguchi
(Class D's leading private)

Daki Kamikudaki
(Class F)

Marugoshi Ossogoshi
(Class F)

Arei Aen
(Class D)

SKWIK SKWIK

trilemma

BASICALLY, THIS'LL BE A TRIANGULAR GAME OF TAG.

THE SNAKE TEAM GOES AFTER THE FROG TEAM, THE FROG TEAM GOES AFTER THE SLUG TEAM...

...AND THE SLUG TEAM GOES AFTER THE SNAKE TEAM! JUST DO YOUR BEST TO CAPTURE EACH OTHER!

Junko Ikusu
(Instructor in charge of class 1-C)
(Science)

CAN YOU THREE FROM CLASS A HELP ME OUT WITH THE EXPLANA-TION?

DON'T WORRY, INVAL!

THE REAL FUN BEGINS HERE.

THIS IS YONAKI-UGUISU FROM YOUR CLASS SPEAKING.

DOESN'T TAG FALL INTO THE CATEGORY...

...OF PHYSICAL GAMES THAT REQUIRE STAMINA? THE VERY THING I REQUESTED WE AVOID.

THE TAILS HAVE ONLY BEEN INSERTED INTO THEIR JERSEYS...

...SO THEY CAN EASILY BE PULLED OUT WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT INJURIES.

SWIP

LET'S SAY A SNAKE MANAGES TO CAPTURE A FROG.

CONTACT IS OFF-LIMITS, SO THEY HAVE TO GRAB THEIR TAIL LIKE SO.

...SO THIS BATTLE WILL NATURALLY BE DECIDED THROUGH SOMETHING CODE-RELATED.

IF THAT'S IT FOR THE RULES, THEN IT'D JUST BE A SIMPLE GAME OF TAIL TAG.

BUT AS YOU KNOW, THIS IS CIPHER ACADEMY...

IF A PREY'S TAIL IS STOLEN, THEY NEED TO USE SOMETHING IN THEIR VICINITY WITHIN 30 SECONDS ...

...AND SHIELD THEM-SELVES FROM THEIR CAPTOR USING A CODE.

THE CAPTOR MUST THEN BREAK THE CODE WITHIN 30 SECONDS, THUS THRUSTING FORTH THEIR SPEAR OF WISDOM.

ALL BATTLES THAT TAKE PLACE TODAY WILL BE AD-LIB CODE BATTLES, HYPER SPRINTS THAT WILL EACH LAST APPROXIMATELY ONE MINUTE.

Shibori Nikueda
(Instructor in charge of class 1-A)
(P.E.)

Fubasami Hossawa
(Instructor in charge of class 1-D)
(Japanese)

SO THAT'S WHY THEY CHOSE THE ATHLETIC FIELD...

...NECESSITATING THE ABILITY TO CREATE CODES FROM SCRATCH IN A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

...

WE HAVE TO USE SOMETHING IN THE VICINITY? MEANING...

...WE CAN'T USE CODES THAT WE'VE PREPARED BEFOREHAND.

...AND ESCORT THEM TO THE HIDEOUT.

IF THE CAPTOR SUCCEEDS AT BREAKING THE CODE, THE HUNT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

THE CAPTOR WILL THEN GIVE THE TAIL BACK TO THEIR PREY...

AFTERWARD, THE CAPTOR MUST RETURN TO THEIR HIDEOUT BEFORE THEY CAN EMBARK ON ANOTHER HUNT.

IF THE CAPTOR PATHETICALLY FAILS TO BREAK THE CODE, THE HUNT WILL BE A FAILURE.

THE CAPTOR WILL THEN GIVE THE TAIL BACK TO THEIR PREY AND RELEASE THEM.

I UNDER-STAND GIVING THE TAIL BACK WHEN RELEASING THEM...

...BUT WHY DO WE HAVE TO GIVE THE TAIL BACK TO OUR PREY WHEN WE ESCORT THEM?

JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE'S CAPTURED DOESN'T MEAN THE BATTLE ENDS THERE.

JUST LIKE IN KICK-THE-CAN AND WAR.

IN OTHER WORDS, PREY CAPTURED IN A HIDEOUT CAN BE RESCUED BY THEIR ALLIES...

?

...IF ONE ALLY DEFEATS THE OPPOSING TEAM'S GUARD IN A CODE BATTLE THAT'S CARRIED OUT WITH THE SAME RULES OF PLAY.

?

EACH TEAM HAS ONE GUARD, AND THEY'RE THE ONE CAPTOR FROM THAT TEAM THAT A PREY CAN CHALLENGE. A FROG CAN CHALLENGE A SNAKE GUARD, A SNAKE A SLUG GUARD, AND A SLUG A FROG GUARD.

?

TRILEMMA CAPTURE LIST!

THAT'S IT! JUST FIGURE OUT THE REST DURING THE ACTUAL COMPETITION.

EVEN IF YOU WIN, GUARDS CANNOT BE CAPTURED.

...I SIMPLY CAN'T PERMIT SOMEONE MAKING UP FOR THEIR LACK OF INTELLIGENCE WITH STAMINA ...

HOWEVER, DESPITE STILL BEING A CHILD, AS A CIPHER SOLDIER...

I UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S NOT A COMPETITION OF PHYSICAL FORTITUDE.

HM?

KLINK

ガチャ-!

SEEMS LIKE WE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE UP FOR OUR LACK OF STAMINA WITH INTELLIGENCE AFTER ALL.

Q.94

Difficulty : ★☆☆☆☆







Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The first one-star problem since Q3, but that doesn't necessarily mean it's because it's easy to solve. Especially since Iroha's ability to sniff out the correct answers doesn't really work well on problems like this.

THIS IS A COSTUME.

WHY WOULD THERE BE A BEAR AT SCHOOL? USE COMMON SENSE, PLEASE.



SORRY ...

APOLOGIES WON'T FIX THIS MATTER. I REQUEST THAT YOU REFLECT ON YOUR ACTIONS.

SO STRICT!

...

S...

STILL...THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE WHO ARE MAKING THEIR "EXPRESSIONS" HARD TO READ USING NOT JUST COSTUMES, BUT ALSO THINGS LIKE MAKEUP AND MASKS...

MEANING THEY'VE ALREADY GOT COUNTER-MEASURES FOR THE FEW STRONG POINTS I HAVE...

Am I being too self-conscious?

IF EVERY-ONE'S IN AGREEMENT, THEN LET'S PROCEED WITH THE DRAWING!

FROG, SNAKE, OR SLUG?

TALK ABOUT A TRILEMMA OF CUTENESS!

NO... THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ELEMENTARY...

CHASING CLASS B-C WHILE BEING CHASED BY CLASS D-F...

HUP

NOW, THEN...

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME!

...EVERYONE ELSE WILL BE ABLE TO CHASE DOWN THAT GRADE SKIPPER WITHOUT HOLDING BACK.

BY ACCEPTING THIS OVERLY HEAVY HANDICAP...

WHAP

WHAP

WHAP

WHAP

WHAP

WOOHS

ii

キラーン
SPARKLE
!
!
I WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED REQUESTS, HAD THERE BEEN ANY!
A GOLD MEDALIST IN KIDS' GYMNASTICS DESERVES A HANDICAP TOO...
TIME TO FOCUS, IROHAZAKA-KUN.
DESPITE FORMING AN ALLIANCE, ONLY ONE MEMBER FROM CLASS C IS TAKING PART IN THIS BATTLE.
IT'S CLEAR THAT SHE'S BEEN PLANNING FOR THIS EVER SINCE THE PEACE CONFERENCE.
SEEMS LIKE WE'RE VULNERABLE WHEN IT COMES TO OFF-THE-BOARD STRATEGIES LIKE THIS.
THIS NOBLE VILLAINESS'S BUTT IS STILL GREEN.
That must be how she disappeared after the invitation...

NO. THERE'S NO WAY...

YONAKI-UGUISU ...?

...IT WOULD HAVE LOOKED MORE LIKE CHEERLEADER TUMBLING THAN GYMNASTICS.

HER MOVES JUST NOW... IF SHE HADN'T BEEN ON THAT BEAM...

YEAH... WE'LL NEED TO BE CAREFUL FROM HERE ON OUT...

BUT...

Frog Team Hideout

Aquatic Athletics Area

...BUT WE WON'T GET ANYWHERE HOLING UP IN HERE.

OKAY, LET'S KEEP THIS STRATEGY MEETING BRIEF.

WE WON'T GET OUR TAILS STOLEN WITHIN OUR HIDEOUT...

I DIDN'T THINK THE CODE BATTLE WOULD END UP BEING SOMETHING THIS ACTIVE...

SORRY, NOHIME-SAN.

KLINK KLINK

STILL, WE HAVE A WHOLE THREE HOURS...

ACTING TOO HASTILYY MIGHT BACKFIRE ON US.

YEAH.

IT SEEMS LIKE CATCHING UP AT THE VERY END MIGHT BE THE KEY HERE.

I ALSO JUST HAD PROFESSOR KOGOE DO MAINTENANCE ON MY PROSTHETIC EYE.

BESIDES, I WILL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR WITH TAYUTAN'S SUPPORT.

I'M FILLED WITH JOY...

...KNOWING THAT I CAN TAKE PART IN SUCH A PLEBEIAN GAME.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET ALL SAPPY JUST BECAUSE WE'RE THE FROG TEAM, IROHAZAKA-KUN.

THE SAME GOES FOR YOU, ANONYMITY-SAN.

JUST LIKE HOW INSTRUCTOR IKUSU JUST REMINDED US...

IF YOU RELY ON THAT WEAPON TO BREAK CODES, WE'LL BE DISQUALI-FIED.

I KNOW THEY DIDN'T SAY USING YOUR PROSTHETIC EYE WAS AGAINST THE RULES...

...BUT BE CAREFUL, NON-NON.

...WAITING FOR THE MOMENT WHEN THEY CAN CATCH A PLAYER BREAKING THE RULES.

...MEMBERS FROM CLASS E WHO DROPPED OUT IN THE FIRST ROUND ARE LURKING IN THIS FOREST...

I CAN CERTAINLY IMAGINE THEY'LL BE THE MOST STRICT WITH US...

...CONSIDERING HOW WE'RE THE ONES WHO DROPPED 'EM.

I KNOW, I KNOW.

WHY DO YOU THINK I'M LYING HERE UNMASKED?

...GET CAUGHT AS MANY TIMES AS NECESSARY UNTIL THE MIDDLE PART, YOU'D BETTER THINK AGAIN.

CATCHING UP AT THE VERY END IS CERTAINLY ONE THEORY...

...BUT IF YOU THINK YOU'RE SAFE TO...

IF YOU AREN'T GONNA BREAK THE RULES, THEN WE COULDN'T ASK FOR A MORE RELIABLE ALLY.

WE'D APPRECIATE SOME ADVICE IF YOU HAVE IT TOO.

...I'D MUCH RATHER BE DISQUALIFIED AND LOSE.

IF IT'S A QUESTION OF BEING CAPTURED BY THE SNAKES WHO ARE OUT TO GET US...

...OR THE MEMBERS OF TEAM F IN PARTICULAR...

FWISH

CLASS I-F IS THE SPECIAL MISSION CLASS.

OTHER-WISE KNOWN AS...

...THE CIPHER ACADEMY MASKED TORTURER SQUAD!

To be continued!

Chapter 33:

EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN WAY OF BEING A TANK

*Anonymity Requested enters the fray

*Anonymity Requested

*Worship Anonymity Requested

*Anonymity Requested is right here

*I am the real Anonymity Requested

*Respectfully yours, Anonymity Requested

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

CIPHER ACADEMY

IN THE MIDST OF THIS VAST FOREST, THE HUNTERS ARE AFTER THEIR PREY'S TAILS!

Slug Team
(Classes B and C)

Trilemma Capture List

ALL PLAYERS ARE BOTH HUNTERS AND PREY IN THIS THREE-WAY GAME OF TAG.

Snake Team
(Classes D and F)

Frog Team
(Class A)

30 seconds vs. 30 seconds

IF YOUR TAIL GETS GRABBED, YOU HAVE TO START AN AD-LIB CODE BATTLE!

THEN, IF THE CAPTOR CAN'T BREAK THE CODE IN 30 SECONDS...

...THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE THEIR PREY BACK TO THEIR HIDEOUT.

THE PREY NEEDS TO USE "SOMETHING FROM NATURE" AS PART OF A CODE TO PRESENT TO THEIR CAPTOR WITHIN 30 SECONDS.

IN A DEEP FOREST WITHOUT PUZZLES OR CARDS, THE ONE WHO'S TRULY DANGEROUS IS...

I FEEL THE FRIGGIN' SAME.

Slug Team
Sunazuna Kogecha

THE OUTDOORS WILL PROBABLY HALVE THE TRAUMA PRODUCER'S DANGER, EITHER WAY.

I'LL JUST BE NICE AND SAY IT WAS ME.

Slug Team
Ojigi Jigino

...TAYU YUGATA WOULDN'T COME OUT AGAIN?

WHO'S THE ONE WHO SAID...

Slug Team
Arukuni Ikishiro









HUP

!!

BWAP

WAIT A FRIGGIN' MINUTE!

THAT TAIL ISN'T A SNAKE'S...

FSSSH

WHO AM I?

IT WOULD BE RIDICULOUS OF ME TO GIVE MY NAME AFTER BEING ASKED SUCH A QUESTION.

A FALSE FLAG OPERATION RIGHT AFTER THE BATTLE BEGINS?

ARE YOU FRIGGIN' SERIOUS?! WHO ARE YOU?!

I'M NOT THE TYPE OF BEAUTY WHO GOES AROUND TELLING PEOPLE HER NAME.

Frog Team
Anonymity Requested

...IS TO CAPTURE ALL THE SLUGS AT THE START.

WE THEN HOLE UP, HIDE FROM THE SNAKES, AND KILL TIME UNTIL THE GAME ENDS.

TRILEMMA CAPTURE LIST...

IN MY OPINION, ONE SUREFIRE WAY FOR US TO WIN THIS GAME...

THE SAME PERSON PASSIONATE ENOUGH TO REVEAL HIS DREAM DURING THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE SELECTION.

MY, MY...

HARD TO BELIEVE THOSE ARE THE WORDS OF IROHAZAKA-HAN...

...BUT IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

A SUREFIRE WAY, YOU SAY...

YEAH, WE'D PROBABLY WIN IF WE DID THAT...

...RIGHT ?

ACTUALLY, TALKING BIG IS THE HARDEST PART...

RIBBIT. ♪

...ALL ON MY OWN.

JUST YOU WAIT. I'LL COME BACK WITH AT LEAST THREE SLUGS...

FOLD FOLD

...IS NOW REALLY THE TIME FOR IDLE CHITCHAT, CLASS B?

I HAVE A CONNEC-TION.

ONE OF THOSE UNDISCLOSED DATA THINGS. MORE IMPORTANTLY ...

...HAVE ONE OF CLASS F'S MASKED TORTURER MASKS?

BWAP

WAIT, TAKING THE MASK OFF DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE... WHAT'S YOUR FRIGGIN' NAME, ANYWAY?

AND WHY DOES SOMEONE FROM CLASS A...

PREPARING A CODE WITHIN 30 SECONDS OF GETTING YOUR TAILS STOLEN IS PART OF, UH...

OH YEAH, THE "RULES," RIGHT?

BRING IT. I'LL TAKE YOU ON IN SEAT-NUMBER ORDER.

SHUP

SHUP

SHUP

00:00:01

!!

00:02:14

"I'LL TAKE YOU ON IN SEAT-NUMBER ORDER"?!

00:03:73

HOW COULD SHE SAY THAT KNOWING WE'RE FROM CLASS B?

00:01:90

I PANICKED AFTER GETTING TRICKED LIKE THAT, BUT LET'S NOT FORGET THAT CLASS A IS THE "STUDY NERD" CLASS...

Information Scrambling Class 1-B!

...WE CAN ENCRYPT CODES EVEN MORE THAN USUAL!

AS WE CREATE HOAXES THROUGH FALSE REPORTS AND LIES...

00:15:42

KLAK

SKRITCH

...PRESENT THE QUESTIONS IN AN ORDERLY, EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND, EASY-TO-SOLVE MANNER?

DOES SHE ACTUALLY THINK WE'D BE KIND ENOUGH TO...

SHF

00:25:19

00:22:22

00:18:59

THREE-LAYERED 30-SECOND KILL!

MERCILESS MIXED-CODE SUBMITTAL

00:30:00

Q.97

Difficulty: ★★★★☆



WHICH MUSICAL SYMBOL DO THESE EIGHT ROCKS REPRESENT?

Q. 96

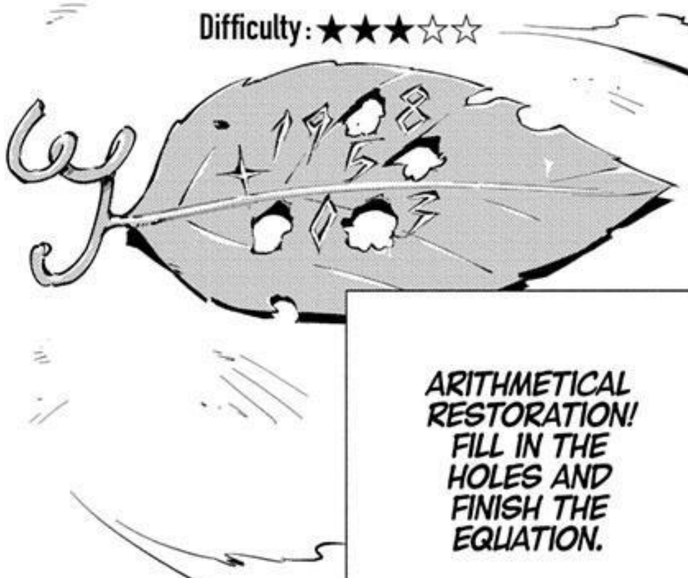
Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆



DOES THE WAY THIS BRANCH FELL INDICATE DAYTIME OR NIGHTTIME?

Q.95

Difficulty: ★★★☆☆



ARITHMETICAL RESTORATION! FILL IN THE HOLES AND FINISH THE EQUATION.

00:10:95

(Fortissississimo)

ffff

WHAT IF YOU LOOKED AT THE EIGHT STONES DISPLAYING ONE OCTAVE AS PLANETS IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM? ASSUMING THE SIZE OF THE DO-SI-DO-FA-MI-LA-RE-SO ROCKS CORRESPONDS TO THE SIZE OF EACH PLANET (JUPITER, SATURN, URANUS, NEPTUNE, EARTH, VENUS, MARS, MERCURY), IF YOU REARRANGED THEM IN ORDER OF DISTANCE TO THE SUN (MERCURY, VENUS, EARTH, MARS, JUPITER, SATURN, URANUS, NEPTUNE)...YOU'D GET SO-LA-MI-RE-DO-SI-DO-FA, OR "SORA MIREDO SHIDO FA," WHICH TRANSLATES TO "LOOK AT THE SKY, FOUR TIMES, FA." "LOOK AT THE SKY" CONFIRMS THAT THE PLANET-THEORY IS CORRECT, WHILE "FA" CAN TRANSLATE TO THE LETTER "F," WHICH NEEDS TO BE REPEATED FOUR TIMES, AS FFFF, OR A QUADRUPLE FORTE.

Night

IF THE STICK WAS IN THE CENTER OF A CIRCLE, IT WOULD APPEAR LIKE A SUNDIAL, OR A CLOCK THAT ONLY WORKS DURING DAYTIME. BUT SINCE IT ISN'T, IT REPRESENTS NIGHTTIME.

1968
+ 55
2023

WHAT? YOU THINK THERE'S NO WAY TO DETERMINE THE TWO HOLES SERVING AS THE THIRD DIGITS? SINCE YOU CAN ALREADY SEE 19□8 + 55 = 20□3, THE ANSWER SHOULD ALREADY BE OBVIOUS. WHICH ANNIVERSARY ARE WE CELEBRATING FOR THIS WEEKLY MAGAZINE YOU'RE CURRENTLY READING? YOU SHOULD ALSO CHECK OUT THE SHAPE OF THE TWISTED STEM.

SNAP

Byu Hanagoromo
Class E / Observer (in charge of Anonymity Requested)

"I'LL TAKE YOU ON IN SEAT-NUMBER ORDER" WAS ALSO PART OF HER ACT.

HER UNIQUE FIGHTING STYLE ALLOWS HER TO MAKE HER TRUE ABILITIES "ANONYMOUS" THROUGH CHEATING.

THREE CODES FROM THREE DIFFERENT GENRES, EACH CREATED FROM A DIFFERENT MATERIAL AND WITH A DIFFERENT ANSWER...

...YET SHE SOLVED THEM ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

...PERHAPS TAKING ON MULTIPLE PEOPLE ALONE IS ACTUALLY HER SPECIALTY.

THINKING BACK TO HOW SHE WAS A HORRIBLE PERSON WHO MADE ENEMIES OF HER CLASSMATES DURING THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE SELECTION...

WHERE? THE AQUATIC ATHLETICS AREA, RIGHT?

THAT'S WHERE THE FROG TEAM'S HIDEOUT IS...

WAIT, YOU THREE!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

If they had actually taken her on in order, the third person would have had a maximum of 150 seconds to construct a code (60 + 60 + 30). So to Anonymity Requested, who wanted to finish things as quickly as possible, taking on all three of them at once was the best outcome. Also, considering how class B was making fun of class A for studying so much, the fact that they presented their codes with question prompts shows that they underestimated their opponent.

THOSE "RULES" OR WHATEVER DIDN'T STATE...

...THAT THE CAPTOR HAS TO TAKE THEIR PREY...

...DIRECTLY TO THE HIDEOUT.

THAT FORMATION YOU WERE JUST IN...

IT WAS ACTUALLY FOR ATTACKING, NOT DEFENSE, RIGHT?

YOUR PLAN WAS TO CAPTURE YOUR PREY TOGETHER...

...FORCING THEM TO CREATE THREE QUESTIONS WITHIN 30 SECONDS, WASN'T IT?

...

HOW DID SHE FIGURE OUT A PLAN THAT WE DIDN'T EVEN PUT INTO ACTION?!

I'M A KIND, BEAUTIFUL GIRL...

...SO BEFORE I TAKE YOU BACK TO THE HIDEOUT...

...I'M GOING TO LET YOU MAKE A PIT STOP...

...I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO BECOME MY SUBORDI-NATES.

...SO THAT YOU CAN CAPTURE ONE PERSON FROM CLASS F, JUST LIKE YOU WANTED.

BUT SINCE WE'RE BEING OBSERVED, FOR APPEARANCE'S SAKE...

WE GOT CAPTURED BY A MONSTROUS "ANYTHING GOES" TYPE!

FIRST A FALSE FLAG OPERATION, THEN FORCED LABOR AND THE REQUISITION OF MANPOWER, FOLLOWED BY TAKING CONTROL OVER OUR OWN OPERATIONS...

THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT HER TRUE GOAL IS...

...she'd be the easiest to read out of everyone.

カチャ KLINK KLINK カチャ

ANONYMITY-SAN SAID THAT DEPENDING ON HOW THINGS GO, SHE'D BE ABLE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER...

If not for her glasses weapon...

...OF SNAKES ON HER WAY BACK.

IT'D BE HARD TO RUN INTO EITHER A SNAKE OR A SLUG IF YOU JUST WENT ABOUT THINGS NORMALLY...

THIS ATHLETICS FIELD IS REALLY SPACIOUS, THOUGH.

ITS ACREAGE MIGHT BE EQUAL TO THE TOTAL ACREAGE OF ALL THE DOME STADIUMS IN JAPAN.

BEFORE WE EVEN GET TO THE MATTER OF HER PROSTHETIC EYE'S ABILITIES, THAT NOBLE-WOMAN...

WHICH MEANS MY ONLY REMAINING CONCERN IS NOHIME-SAN.

FOR STARTERS, I SHOULDN'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT TOSHUSAI-SAN AND YUGATA-SAN.

AND SURVIVAL GAMES LIKE THIS ARE PROBABLY WHERE YOSAIMURA-SAN TRULY EXCELS.

...DOESN'T SEEM TO EVEN KNOW WHAT "TAG" IS.

PLEASE TELL US YOUR LAST WORDS.

DO EXCUSE THE THREE OF US FOR GANGING UP ON SUCH A HIGH-CLASS NOBLE AS YOURSELF.

NOW THEN, LORD NOHIME...

Snake Team
Seppun Zakuroguchi
(Class 1-D leading private)

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WOULD ANY OF YOU LIKE TO BECOME ONE OF MY ATTENDANTS?

I'LL PAY YOU 30,000,000 MORG.

DOES IT APPEAR LIKE I'M LIVING A LIFE WHERE I NEED TO LEAVE A MESSAGE BEHIND?

Frog Team
Iesuno Nohime
(Head of the family who established Cipher Academy)

To be continued!



Chapter 34:
ONE RECORD THAT'S A MATCH FOR A THOUSAND

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

WHEN A PREY GETS THEIR TAIL STOLEN, THEY NEED TO PRESENT A CODE WITHIN 30 SECONDS.

THE CAPTOR MUST THEN BREAK THE CODE WITHIN 30 SECONDS.

THAT IS THE MAIN RULE OF THIS TRILEMMA CAPTURE LIST CODE BATTLE...

...BUT WHEN THE COUNT ACTUALLY BEGINS IS LEFT UP TO THE PLAYERS' DISCRETION.

OR RATHER...

...LEFT UP TO THEIR GENEROSITY.

HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU INTEND TO KILL STEAMING THOSE TEA LEAVES BEFORE THE 30 SECONDS START?!

GEEZ, YOU'RE SO FRIGGIN' ELEGANT I COULD JUST DIE ON THE SPOT!

FUNERAL ADDRESS !!

TWITCH TWITCH

Arei Aen
Generosity Rating: C-

SHE'S THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY WHO FOUNDED CIPHER ACADEMY, REMEMBER?

CALM DOWN AND SHOW HER SOME RESPECT... AS IF YOU'RE MOURNING HER.

Methanegas Mengatasuzume
Generosity Rating: B+

TEE HEE.

YOU CERTAINLY HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS, ZAKUROGUCHI-SAN.

...CONSIDERING HOW, DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE'S THE HEAD OF SAID FAMILY, SHE HAS STILL CHOSEN TO TAKE PART IN THIS MILITARY EXERCISE AS A FOOT SOLDIER.

THAT'S RIGHT. BUT WHAT WE SHOULD TRULY PAY RESPECT TO IS HER HONOR...

Seppun Zakuroguchi
Generosity Rating: A+

I'M SURPRISED THE COUNT HASN'T STARTED YET, THOUGH.

DON'T YOU COMMONERS EVEN KNOW HOW TO COUNT?

PERHAPS WE OUGHT TO FORGO OUR CHAT WITH TEA SO I CAN TEACH YOU FROM SQUARE ONE?

00:00:78

...

DING DING.

00 : 15 : 44

00 : 12 : 98

00 : 05 : 13

BEING FORCED TO USE SOMETHING FROM NATURE AND INSTANTLY CREATE A CODE ON ITS OWN IS BASICALLY INSTANT DEATH...

FIFTEEN SECONDS HAVE PASSED, YET SHE STILL HASN'T MOVED! I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED AS MUCH.

00 : 18 : 81

00 : 26 : 32

CREATING THREE SEPARATE CODES IN 30 SECONDS... I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY SHE'D JUST WANT TO ELEGANT-LY THROW THE FIGHT INSTEAD.

BUT WE'VE CRUELLY FORCED HER TO CREATE THREE SEPARATE CODES AT THE SAME TIME.

00 : 21 : 29

00:27:50

!

?

NOW THEN, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT YOUR CODE...

...BY SHAKING THE VERY ASSETS...

...OF THE NATURAL WORLD— THE *AIR* OF THE FOREST.

Q.98

Difficulty: ★★★★★

♫ Lxa millthek qouylla mzui nowyow

Va taykrri tow leknn keglm rir

Slsst nnan mtoolu tabp knyhk kkok

Us krtu G hedyz kauw gatmlli mal

Nee smmma mqui nchiqui Ike ♫



00:00:00
Answer time
Now
00:30:00
Question time
00:00:00
Teatime
Tail caught!
Singing (SAFE)
...SOMEONE HAD TO FINISH PRESENTING THE QUESTION WITHIN 30 SECONDS...
TRUE. THEY NEVER SAID...
IT'LL BE KEY TO KEEP UP WITH OUR GROUP MANEUVERS FROM HERE ON OUT AND MAKE SURE OUR OPPONENTS LIKE CLASS B DON'T USE THIS STRATEGY.
THE DEADLY REALITY OF THE 30-SECOND RULE IS THAT EVEN IESU-NO-HIME COULD BARELY FINISH PRESENTING ONE QUESTION WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT...
THUS, OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE DEAD, WE SHALL DECODE THE DYING MESSAGE THAT HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO US.
THE BATTLE HAS BEEN WON, BUT CLASS I-D IS THE DYING MESSAGE DECODING CLASS.

IF THE THEME IS AIR...DID SHE WANT US TO PONDER HOW THE KANJI FOR "AIR" IN JAPANESE CAN BE READ AS "KUU," AN ALTERNATE READING FOR THE NUMBER NINE?

SINCE IT'S A SONG, ANY THEORIES ABOUT SPELLING WILL LEAD TO DEAD ENDS... WE ONLY NEED TO FOCUS ON THE SOUNDS.

AND CONSIDERING THE MORTALLY OBVIOUS FACT THAT A CERTAIN SOUND APPEARS IN THE LYRICS FOR A TOTAL OF NINE LETTERS...

IT'S ALSO MORBIDLY EERIE HOW SHE TAUNTED US WITH THAT WHOLE COUNTING INSULT...

SHOULD I LINE UP THE LYRICS CLEANLY ON A 9X9 PAPER?

THERE ARE 81 SYLLABIC SOUNDS IN THE LYRICS!

AND WHEN I DO...AHA! THERE JUST HAPPENS TO BE A VEHICLE THAT USES AIR RIGHT IN THE CENTER...

WE DON'T HAVE ANY REASON NOT TO FACTORIZE IT 9X9...

CONNECTING THE DOTS CREATES THE SHAPE OF A BIRD... NO.

IF WE STICK WITH THE 9X9 PAPER THEORY...

SINCE WE'RE LOOKING FOR A "VEHICLE," AND CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A MILITARY EXERCISE, IT MUST BE SOMETHING THAT CUTS THROUGH AIR AT THE SPEED OF SOUND—

...WE CAN ALSO SEE NINE LETTERS INTERSPERSED ACROSS THE PAGE IN CONTRASTING POSITIONS.

メテロキマリトザラ
ムミツニトラウノミ
キルタユウスレヨル
イマジキアレキヴス
ニラヒコウセンアキ
チイイキノセキタコ
キネデアボトゴヨヤ
ルスカスポンレクレ
ケムカキウナマリマ

A FIGHTER AIRCRAFT...

*The chart is exactly the same as the chart in panel 2, just with different letters lit up and with different handwriting.

メテロキマリトザラ
ムミツニトラウノミ
キルタユウスレヨル
イマジキアレキヴス
ニラヒコウセンアキ
チイイキノセキタコ
キネデアボトゴヨヤ
ルスカスポンレクレ
ケムカキウナマリマ

AN AIRSHIP...

Hikousen is highlighted and is the word for "airship" in Japanese.

ラミルスキヨレマザノヨ
ヴァタヨクリトゥ
ノキキアレマリラ
スレセセトンナマトウアウ
タホホウキュキキ
アスキロッタジヒイテリ
カテミルマライ
ネスムメリキイーイキレア

A WEATHER BALLOON...

*The syllable *ki* is highlighted in the chart. The word for "weather balloon" in Japanese is *kikuyu*. The *ki* sound appears nine times in this code and is also a synonym for "air." *Kyuu* also means "nine."





Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Here's a meta explanation: This code utilizes the *Weekly Shonen Jump* rule that says that annotative kana (*rubi*) must be placed above or to the right of kanji. It's an audio-based code, something that would have been hard to do with the handwritten and print-based codes we've seen so far. Quickly figuring out that the words aren't from any particular language is key. But there's no way a code crafted by Nohime-san of all people would be that simple...

...BEGUN THE COUNT YET.

OH, AND PLEASE DON'T WORRY.

I HAVEN'T...

ELEGANT-LY...FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.

DO TAKE YOUR TIME AND THINK IT OVER.

A CODE WITH THREE ANSWERS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO PUT A NORMAL PERSON ON THEIR DEATHBED...

BUT WE ALLOWED HER TO MAKE IT...

SHE CREATED ONE QUESTION WITH THREE POSSIBLE ANSWERS!

SHE DIDN'T CREATE THREE QUESTIONS IN 30 SECONDS...

...

...THUS GIVING HERSELF THE ABILITY TO SAY, "THAT ISN'T YOUR CORRECT ANSWER!"

A QUESTION WITH ENOUGH ANSWERS FOR EACH OF US...

WILL THIS NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH LEAD TO ETERNAL SLUMBER?

WE TRAPPED HER THREE-ON-ONE, ONLY TO HAVE HER BRILLIANTLY TURN THE SITUATION ON ITS HEAD.

MEANING ANYONE CAN INSIST THAT THEIR CORRECT ANSWER IS CORRECT.

IN OTHER WORDS, A TRILEMMA OF CORRECT ANSWERS!

!!

THE CONCLUSION THAT WE'VE ALL COME TO.

YOU DON'T NEED TO START THE COUNT.

NOHIME-SAN, I'D LIKE TO REVEAL MY—NO!

...PLEASE ALLOW US TO COMPETE ONE-ON-ONE.

WE'LL STUDY UP SOME MORE AND RETURN LATER.

IF WE HAPPEN TO MEET AGAIN...

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, NON-NON.

I FOUND THE PERSON I KNOW IN CLASS E AND ASKED THEM THE QUESTION.

SEEMS LIKE THE ANSWER'S NO AFTER ALL.

SHF

OH MY.

HOW UNFOR-TUNATE.

They also said you need to clean up your tea set within 30 seconds.

USING THINGS LIKE WEATHER BALLOONS AND AIRSHIPS, LET ALONE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT...

...IS NATURALLY AGAINST THE RULES FOR THIS GAME OF TAG.

NOTHING AT ALL.

OH NO.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS GONE?

YOU DON'T LOOK VERY DIS-APPOINTED, THOUGH.

I SIMPLY ENJOYED SOME GRACEFUL SINGING...

...WITH A CHARMING GROUP OF LADIES.

Iesuno Nohime

Generosity Rating: SSR

RUSTLE

?

EN-CHAN WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO HIT THE JACKPOT FASTER THAN ME...

KLIK KLIK

IT'S NO GOOD. I CAN'T GET IT LOOSE AT ALL...

KLIK

LOOM

WAH!

POP

YOSAIMURA-SAN!

NO, IROHA-KUN.

APPARENTLY ANONYMITY-SAN'S THE ONE WHO CAPTURED THEM.

WHAT'S WRONG?! DID YUGATA-SAN FROM MY CLASS DO SOMETHING TO YOU?!

YOU'RE FROM CLASS B, RIGHT?

I WOULDN'T MIND BEING CAPTURED BY HER TOO...

SHE PUT ENEMY TROOPS "UNDER HER PROTECTION"?

...SO I PUT THEM UNDER MY PROTECTION WITH A CODE BATTLE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED, THOUGH.

I WAS JUST WALKING THROUGH THE FOREST WHEN I FOUND THEM LOST...

...A BATTLE AGAINST CLASS F'S LEADING PRIVATE.

THAT BEAUTIFUL GIRL...

...DRAGGED US RIGHT INTO...

IT'S OKAY. THAT WAS OUR GOAL FROM THE VERY START.

I'M SORRY! I'LL MAKE SURE SHE APOLOGIZES AS WELL!

WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?!

AND BESIDES, IN THE END...

...SHE ENDED UP GETTING CAPTURED BY THE SNAKE TEAM.

?!

...SINCE SHE FOUGHT WHILE PROTECTING US...

Q.99

Difficulty:★★★★★★

"DON'T COME TO SAVE ME."

SHE LEFT A MESSAGE WITH US.

"I MADE A STUPID MISTAKE, ALL RIGHT?"

*Blindfold: Morality ordinance

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 35:

WHEN LEADERS TOLERATE HUMILIATION, THEN EVEN WAR CAN BECOME VIRTUOUS

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

THIRTY MINUTES HAVE PASSED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE TRILEMMA CAPTURE LIST GAME...

...AND THE FROG TEAM...

...HAS ALREADY HOLED UP IN THEIR HIDEOUT.

NOW THAT ANONYMITY-SAN'S BEEN CAPTURED, WE CAN'T BE CHOOSY.

WE HAVE THREE PRISONERS... FOUR WOULD BE BETTER, BUT THAT'S BEING A BIT GREEDY.

AND SINCE THE SLUG TEAM ONLY HAS THREE ACTIVE PLAYERS LEFT, THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO CAPTURE MANY MORE PRISONERS.

Slug Team

AS LONG AS WE MAKE SURE NO ONE ELSE GETS CAPTURED, WE WON'T LOSE TO THE SNAKE TEAM.

Snake Team

Frog Team

AS LONG AS WE BLOCK THE FOUR ROUTES TO THE CENTER LIKE THIS, WE'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT OUR PRISONERS BEING—

IN THAT REGARD, WE GOT LUCKY WITH OUR HIDEOUT.

ガサ

RUSTLE




RAWWWR

...ETESHITE-SAN AND RIKUKEITO-SAN?!

WHAAAAT?! A BEAR AND KINTARO...ER, I MEAN...

Tonbo Rikukeito
Class 1-B leading private

Quokka Eteshite
Class 1-B vice leading private

THE SLUG TEAM CAN'T TOUCH THE FROG TEAM!

DON'T BREAK FORMATION! EVEN THOUGH IT'S A BEAR!

SPLISH
ちゃぷ
SPLISH
ちゃぷ
TMP
CUTE...

GUARD BATTLE, IROHA-ZAKA.

GIVE ME BACK MY ALLIES.

A CODE BATTLE FOR RELEASING PRISONERS THAT CAN ONLY BE STARTED THROUGH A DECLARATION.

TRILEMMA CAPTURE LIST GUARD BATTLE...

!

IF THE PREY LOSES...

...THEY WILL BECOME A PRISONER AS WELL...

IT'S THE ONLY INSTANCE WHERE A PREY IS ALLOWED TO ASK A CAPTOR FOR A CODE.

EVERY-THING THEY DO IS COM-PLETELY CHAOTIC...

I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED AS MUCH FROM CLASS B, THE INFORMATION-SCRAMBLING CLASS.

...THEN INSTANTLY DECLARED A CODE BATTLE.

SHE TOOK US BY SURPRISE WITH THAT STRANGE ENTRANCE...

...BUT NOW WE HAVE NO TIME TO PREPARE EITHER.

NOT ONLY CAN WE NOT DENY THE GAP IN SKILL HERE...

...FOR THIS SHACKLE ?

WHAT'S THE CODE...

00:04:11

ALTHOUGH...

THAT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SOMETHING FROM NATURE, BUT IT ISN'T ONE OF IROHA-KUN'S PERSONAL POSSESSIONS EITHER...

THE RULES SAID TO "MAKE A CODE USING SOMETHING FROM NATURE"...

IS THAT ALLOWED?

!

00:00:95

3493.

KLIK
ガチャ
!
O-
OKAY.
AH...
THANK YOU, RIKUKEITO ...
...BEFORE YONAKI-UGUISU STEALS ALL THE GLORY FROM YOU.
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO RETURN TO THE BATTLE-FIELD...
OKAY. YOU THREE NEED TO RUN NOW.
WHEN A GUARD LOSES, THEY MUST ALLOW THEIR PREY 30 SECONDS OF ESCAPE TIME.
DURING THAT PERIOD, CAPTORS MUST REFRAIN FROM CHASING THEM DOWN OR PREVENTING THEM FROM ESCAPING.
WHAT ARE YOU THANKING ME FOR? MORE IMPOR-TANTLY ...
...I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S ALLOWED TO RIDE ON QUOKKA'S BACK, OKAY?





*Note: *Sansukumi* is one way to read those digits in Japanese and also means "three-way battle."



Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The *su* pronunciation for "four" comes from Chinese...but I guess I don't need to explain that, given that this is the same magazine that published *Dragon Ball*. If you think back to the Arachne Ariadne maze, you can see how it's possible to solve this code. Even if the code was decided randomly, one can observe a pretty strong deviation based on the person who thought it up.

...WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO BACK ON THE HUNT AGAIN.

WE HAVE LESS THAN TWO HOURS LEFT.

NOW THAT OUR PLAN TO HOLE UP HAS COLLAPSED...

...I GO RESCUE ANONYMITY-SAN?

!

UM...

CAN...

WERE YOU REALLY THINKING THAT FAR AHEAD WHEN YOU ASKED HER THAT QUESTION?

SINCE YOU KNEW YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BEST RIKUKEITO-SAN IN A CODE BATTLE...

...YOU JUST DECIDED TO USE HER TO REMOVE YOUR SHACKLES INSTEAD, RIGHT?

ANONYMITY-SAN CAUGHT THREE PEOPLE. IF WE GET HER BACK ON THE BATTLEFIELD...

...I FEEL LIKE WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE AT WINNING AGAIN...

NOW THAT MY SHACKLE'S OFF AND WE DON'T HAVE A PRISONER ANYMORE...

...I NO LONGER HAVE *A REASON TO NOT GO AND HELP ANONYMITY-SAN.*

REMEMBER, I WAS A PRISONER ONCE TOO.

I NEVER WANT TO ABANDON AN IMPRISONED ALLY...

...EVEN DURING A MOCK BATTLE LIKE THIS.

NO WAY. I WANTED TO WIN, OF COURSE.

I CAN'T SAY SHE DIDN'T HAVE AN EFFECT ON ME, THOUGH.

...LET ME GO SAVE ANONYMITY-SAN.

I PROMISE THAT OUR TEAM WILL WIN.

JUST PLEASE...

PROMISE ME ONE MORE THING.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU'LL BOTH COME BACK ALIVE AND IN ONE PIECE.

I'LL TAKE OVER GUARD DUTY.

SHE HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE MASKED TORTURER SQUAD FROM CLASS F, AFTER ALL.

WELL ...

Torture and that kinda stuff is scary. right?

THAT'S ELEMENTARY.

Snake Team Hideout

Athletic Area Treetops

YANK YANK

...AND DROP DOWN A ROPE OR SOMETHING FROM THE TOP. THEY'RE KINDA HOLED UP TOO...

THEY REMOVED ANY LADDER OR NET THEY MIGHT HAVE USED...

THEY PROBABLY TRANSMIT A CODE FROM THE BOTTOM WHEN NECESSARY...

GRRP

FWOOSH

SWP

SMAK

TAP

FWOOM

*Headband: Morality ordinance

FWAM

GUARD BATTLE, HAKANAGE-SAN.

GIVE ME BACK MY ALLY!

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

GIVE ME BACK MY ALLY!

GUARD BATTLE, HAKANAGE-SAN.

Chapter 36: ON A PAPER RAZOR'S EDGE

CAN'T YOU EVEN READ A NORMAL MESSAGE?!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO COME AND SAVE ME?!

YOU BRAINLESS NINCOMPOOP!

*Headband: Morality ordinance

Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Outro

MORON! HALF-WIT! IGNORAMUS! DUNDERHEAD! IDIOT...

SAY SOMETHING ALREADY, IROHAZAKA!

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A SINGLE RETORT?!

GUARD BATTLE, HAKANAGE-SAN.

GIVE ME BACK MY ALLY!

I DON'T HAVE ANY...

...RETORTS EITHER.

WHA—?!

BUT I'M NOT THE SNAKE TEAM'S GUARD, IROHAZAKA-SAN.

THEN WHO...?

WORMP

Shakunage Hakanage
Class 1-F leading private

ANONYMITY-SAN WAS CAPTURED BY HAKANAGE-SAN, AFTER ALL...

WELL, THAT MAKES SENSE.

!

HELLO THERE. I'M VICE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE AMBUSH SOLDIER, DAKI KAMIKU-DAKI.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT'S ME.

...IT'D BE DIS-APPOINTING IF THE CAPTAINS DIDN'T FIGHT.

BUT I GUESS SINCE YOU'VE COME THIS FAR...

Q.100

Difficulty:★★★★★

TRY TO SOLVE THIS.

T T E

FROM THIS MOMENT FORWARD, LET'S SAY I'M THE GUARD.

...YOU NEED TO USE SOMETHING FROM NATURE TO CREATE A CODE WITHIN 30 SECONDS!

HEY, YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

THE TRILEMMA CAPTURE LIST RULES STATE...

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA... YOU'RE USING INK ON PAPER!

?!

!!

RESORTING TO VIOLENCE?!

I USED THIS TO CUT GRASS...

...THEN CHOPPED IT UP AND MELTED IT...

...INTO PAPER.

YOU MADE... YOUR OWN PAPER?!

YES. IN SIMPLE TERMS.

RIGHT WHEN THE GAME BEGAN.

THE DUCKBOARD WE USED TO FLATTEN AND DRY IT IS ALSO HANDMADE.

!!

T T E

WE USED BLUEBERRIES FOR THE INK. WILD ONES, OF COURSE.

UNLESS YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS, WE'LL START THE COUNT.

SHUK

NOW GO ON AND SOLVE IT WITHIN 30 SECONDS.

TRY TO CUT THROUGH IT LIKE PAPER.

00:00:01

...EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT THEY'VE IMPOSED A TIME LIMIT ON US.

IF THEY CAN USE PAPER, THEN IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM A NORMAL CODE BATTLE...

I WARNED YOU THAT THE MASKED TORTURER SQUAD WAS DANGEROUS, DIDN'T I?!

I'M THE KIND OF PERSON YOU SHOULD ABANDON, YOU NAIVE LITTLE IDIOT!

...THE THREE FROM THE SLUG TEAM THAT I LED IN HERE.

AND THAT'S EXACTLY HOW THEY DEFEATED...

00:09:19

"A HUMAN IS THE ONE WHO SET ITS CODE."

"YOU THINK WE CAN'T SEE PEOPLE IF THEIR FACES AREN'T VISIBLE?"

00:06:86

FIRST, LET'S JUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IDEA OF THEIRS THAT ALLOWED THEM TO EXPLOIT SUCH A BLIND SPOT.

THEY SPENT TIME MAKING TOOLS THAT ALLOWED THEM TO CREATE CODES WITHIN 30 SECONDS.

IF THEY HAD A REASON TO SHORTEN THEIR EXPLANATION...

AFTER ALL, EVEN IF THEY DID CUT, MELT, AND DRY THE MATERIAL...THAT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE PAPER, IS IT?

I HAVE TO THINK BEYOND THAT... WAS ANYTHING MISSING FROM THEIR EXPLANATION?

00:12:82

MY LOSS?

NO, I ACCEPT YOU.

FWSH

00:16:64

...HEAT?

COULD IT BE...

00:15:38

ASIDE FROM DRYING AND MOLDING THE PAPER, THEY ALSO NEED TO HEAT IT UP!

BINGO! THEY MAY HAVE SAID THEY SPENT TIME MAKING IT, BUT WE'RE STILL ONLY TALKING ABOUT APPROXIMATELY HALF AN HOUR.

THEY LEFT IT OUT ON PURPOSE AS A HINT FOR BREAKING THE CODE, BUT...

THEY DIDN'T LEAVE IT OUT TO KEEP YOU FROM THINKING ABOUT IT...

IT MUST BE BECAUSE HEAT IS NECESSARY FOR BREAKING THE CODE!

THEY EXPLAINED THEIR PROCESS WHILE OMITTING THAT POINT— A POINT THEY WOULD NORMALLY WANT TO BRAG ABOUT.

I'LL LEND YOU WHATEVER YOU NEED.

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, THEN LET'S START A FIRE.

EVEN IF YOU USED ALL THE TIME YOU HAD ON IT...

YEAH... IT'S AN ILLOGICAL PLAN, PAL.

00:20:09

KRACKLE

IT'S A CODE THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SOLVE WITHIN 30 SECONDS...

...YOU'D STILL NEVER HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO START A FIRE AND APPLY HEAT TO THE CODE.

LICK

MM

00:23:15

YUMMY COLD READING...

?!

?!

RIGHT? IF THE INK IS MADE FROM BLUE-BERRIES...

?

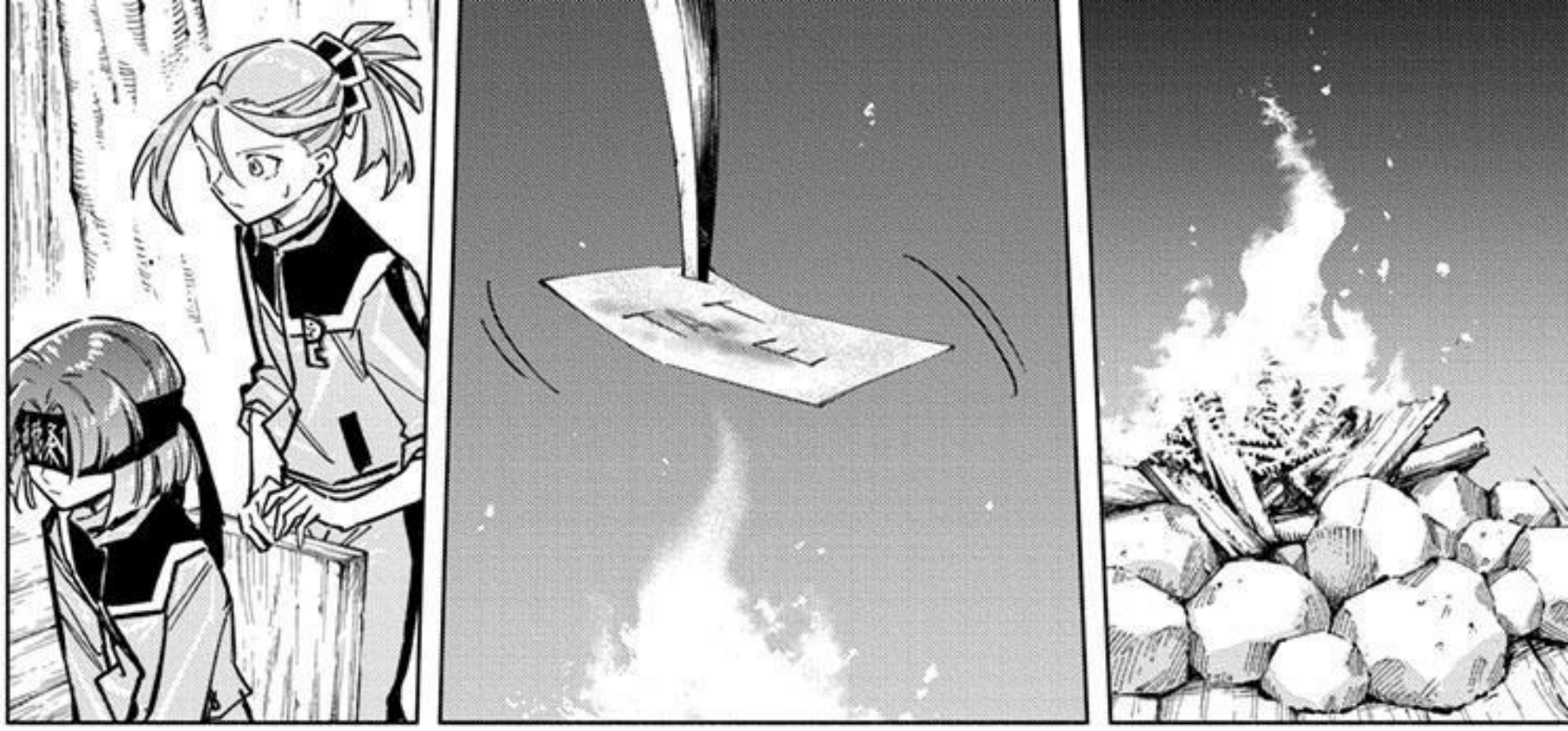
...THEN IT'D MAKE SENSE THAT YOU'D USE FRUIT FOR THE REVEALING LIQUID TOO.

TASTE ME!

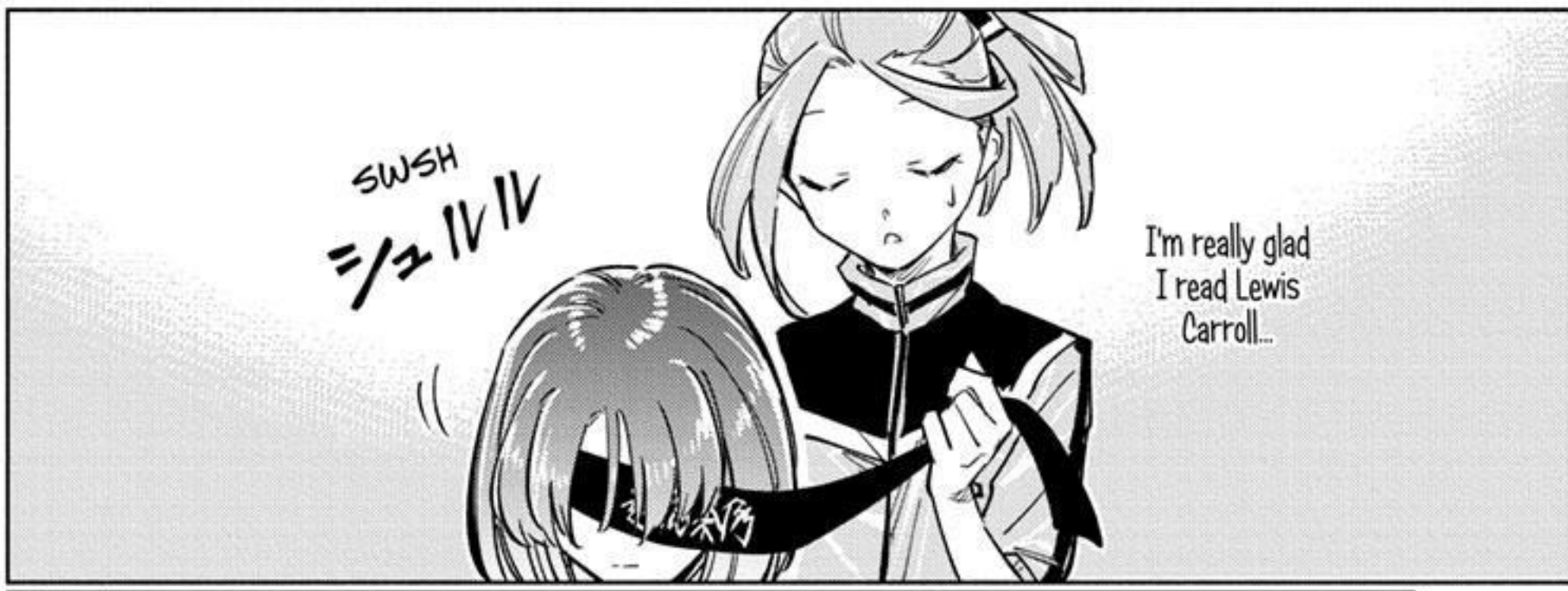
TOGETHER WITH THE BLUEBERRIES, THAT'S THE SENTENCE.

IT TASTED LIKE ORANGE PEELS!

2CA-3E3-EAB







Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

When transparent handwriting made with alum is scorched by heat, the letters become visible on paper. This is the science behind "invisible ink," but if you don't have any alum nearby or don't even know what alum is, you can use citrus juice instead. This is the 100th code, so in order to celebrate, we should have made the pages of *Shonen Jump* citrus flavored, but since it seems like that's impossible, we'll just say that as long as you figured out that he had to lick it to break the code, you were correct.

THAT'S OKAY. I DID AS I LIKED.

BECAUSE I LIKE YOU.

I'M NOT GONNA THANK YOU, IROHAZAKA.

I'M NOT GONNA APOLOGIZE FOR VERBALLY ABUSING YOU, EITHER.

...

IT DOESN'T MATTER, BUT...

...HOW ARE YOU TWO GOING TO ESCAPE?

CLASS F ISN'T FRIENDLY ENOUGH...

...TO DROP DOWN A ROPE LADDER SO THAT THE FROGGIES CAN RUN HOME, YOU KNOW?

...

BUT...

...YOU'LL LEND US TOOLS, WON'T YOU?

I'M SCARED, I'M SCARED, I'M SCARED, I'M SCARED!

I'M TIED UP EVEN MORE THAN I WAS WHEN I WAS A PRISONER OF WAR!

JUST SHUT UP, ANONYMITY-SAN. I'M ABOUT TO GET A RUNNING START.

A RUNNING START?! WHY?! YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO DO A LONG JUMP, ARE YOU?!

PLEASE! JUST HAVE MERCY ALREADY!

I LIKE YOU TOO, OKAY?!

:-|-ppppppz

DOESN'T MATTER.

I DIDN'T THINK HE'D ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO SOLVE IT, BUT... (HE GAVE US A LICKING.)

SORRY FOR GOING OVER YOUR HEAD.

YOU SURE IT'S OKAY TO LET THEM RUN AWAY LIKE THIS?

I STILL TORTURED OUT A *TON* OF LINES I WANTED TO HEAR.

UH...

HEY...

IROHA-ZAKA...

...

HEH... SORRY.

I ONLY HAD 30 SECONDS TO RUN, REMEMBER...

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME YOU'D SET UP A SAFETY NET?

GUESS HE REALLY DIDN'T TRUDGE INTO THIS DANGER ZONE WITHOUT A PLAN AFTER ALL.

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE ACTUALLY CALCULATED OUR ESCAPE AS WELL...

...SO I JUST PICKED IT UP ON MY WAY HERE.

TOSHUSAI-SAN TOLD ME WHERE THE NET WAS...

THEY GOT AWAY.

I THINK EVERY TEAM'S JUST ABOUT BACK TO SQUARE ONE NOW—

SO, WHAT'S THE SITUATION NOW?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE THREE I *TOSSED* TO YOU?

...SUZUME MENGATA-SAN (D) AND AEN-SAN (D)!

INVALIDES YONAKILIGUISU (C)...

...AND ...

IF WE CATCH HER NOW, THOUGH...

...THE TWO FROM CLASS D WHO SHE'S ESCORTING WOULD BE FREED.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, LEADING PRIVATE? RIGHT NOW...

...THAT QUICK LITTLE BRAT'S TAIL IS OUT IN THE OPEN.

SHOULD WE CAPTURE THE SLUG...

...OR LET HER CUT DOWN THE NUMBER OF SNAKES?

AND EVEN IF THERE IS A THIRD OPTION...

...BASED ON HOW MUCH TIME WE'VE GOT LEFT, THE COMMAND YOU GIVE HERE...

...WILL END UP BEING THE KEY TO UNLOCKING ...

...THIS COMPLICATED TRILEMMA!

To be continued!

Chapter 37:

THOSE WHO CHASE TWO RABBITS ARE FIRST-CLASS PRIVATES



CIPHER ACADEMY

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Outro

Balance Athletics Area

The Trilemma Capture List

One hour remaining

Revolving Athletics Area

Mean-while...

Mean-while...

Membrane Trampoline Area (Team Slug Hideout)

OH, YONAKI-UGUISU-SAN.

SO YOU'VE CAPTURED TWO AT ONCE, HUH? YOU NEVER FAIL TO IMPRESS.

IT ISN'T THAT IMPRESSIVE. I FAILED MY MISSION.

BEAR BEAR BEAR BEAR BEAR BEAR BEAR BEAR BEAR...

CUTE CUTE CUTE CUTE CUTE CUTE CUTE CUTE CUTE...

?

OKAY THEN, I'M OFF TO HUNT AGAIN.

TWO PRISONERS AREN'T ENOUGH TO GIVE ME PEACE OF MIND.

トン TOMP トン TOMP トン TOMP

...

TROT
ちょん
TROT
ちょん
IN OTHER WORDS, ITS GOAL IS TO TURN THOSE WITH ESP INTO CIPHER SOLDIERS.
CLASS I-C IS THE TELEPATHY CLASS.
THAT'S WHY THEY HAVE SO MANY GRADE SKIPPERS.
MIND READING, PRECOGNITION, CLAIRVOYANCE, AND SECOND SIGHT.

IT'S A STRANGE POWER THAT ONLY CHILDREN POSSESS...

...BUT IN OUR DAY AND AGE...

...MOST ESP PHENOMENA CAN BE EXPLAINED THROUGH SCIENCE.

JUST LIKE HOW *YOUR* ABILITY TO READ OTHER PEOPLE'S EXPRESSIONS...

...ISN'T A SUPERPOWER, BUT RATHER A MEANS OF SURVIVAL.

INCIDENTALLY, MY MEANS OF SURVIVAL...

...MAKES ME *EXTREMELY* SENSITIVE TO OTHER PEOPLE *WATCHING* ME.

CREEP... ~ ...



FWIP

NO REASON, REALLY. I JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE BETTER...

...IF WE SETTLED THINGS THROUGH A *PHYSICAL COMPETITION.*

WHY DID YOU IGNORE YOUR CHANCE JUST A BIT AGO?

IT WAS A TRAP WHERE I PLANNED TO LET THE TWO SNAKES GO AND ATTACK YOU...

FWAP

...THE MOMENT YOU TWO JUMPED OUT.



FWOP FWOP

ヨイ ヨイ

WELL, DON'T YOU SOUND CONFIDENT, EVEN THOUGH ALL YOU'VE DONE SO FAR IS REMOVE THAT LITTLE SHACKLE.

BIG TALK COMING FROM CLASS A, THE STUDY CLASS.

IT'LL BE ELEMENTARY.

INSTRUCTOR NIKUEDA TRAINED US HERSELF, YOU KNOW.

NNGH

ぐぐぐい

TOMP
TOMP
TOMP
TOMP
TOMP
FWSH

Front flank over front circle cast stem (rings)

Double and a half twist front stretch salto (floor)

Front swing half twist
front toss pike
high rail hang
(uneven parallel bars)

Flair (pommel horse)

Double twist double back tuck salto (floor)



I SHACKLED YOU AT THE START...

OF COURSE.

ARE WE GOOD?

...

BAM

HOW COULD I NOT ACCEPT?

...AND YOU STILL GOT ME *EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT IN YOUR BEST CONDITION.*

CODE BATTLES ALLOW US TO SUPPLEMENT PHYSICAL STAMINA WITH INTELLIGENCE.

STILL...

HEH.

HAH! YOU SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME... I SHOULD'VE EXPECTED AS MUCH FROM AN ESPER!

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Last week, Iroha ingested forest plants without doing a patch test.

Q.101

Difficulty:★★★★☆

① DEAD FACE,
② BAD HEAD,
③ BEDDED AGE...

WHICH ONE?

QUESTION. *THE ME HERE RIGHT NOW IS...*

...

I'M "SOMETHING FROM NATURE" TOO, AREN'T I?

WHAT ABOUT YOU, IROHAZAKA?

ADDITIONALLY, THE *DIFFICULTY RATINGS OF THE GYMNASTICS MOVES...*

...YOU SHOWED ME WHILE ESCAPING FIT WITHIN THAT RANGE.

MY OPTIONS ARE
① DEAD FACE,
② BAD HEAD, AND
③ BEDDED AGE...

WHICH USE ALL LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET FROM A TO H.

Difficulty Rating B

READING

Difficulty Rating D

Difficulty Rating A

COLD

Difficulty Rating H

ICE

Difficulty Rating E

THAT WAS SOME GOOD EXERCISE... FOR MY BRAIN, THAT IS!

THE CHOICE THAT'S MADE UP OF THE LETTERS *A, B, D, E,* AND *H* IS THE SECOND ONE!

...SINCE I USED TO BE IN THE CHEERLEADING CLUB.

THE POMMEL HORSE AND RINGS ARE FROM MEN'S GYMNASTICS, AFTER ALL.

...I'M PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE IN THIS ACADEMY WHO CAN SOLVE THAT CODE...

OR RATHER...

I JUST BARELY MANAGED TO GET IT RIGHT...

BRING IT ON.

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF SPRINTING.

YONAKI-UGUISU-SAN.

COULD WE MAKE SOME TIME TO TALK LATER?

WHY PREPARE A QUESTION THAT ONLY I CAN SOLVE?

GAME SET!!

ALL TEAMS, PLEASE GATHER IN THE CENTER AREA!

Slug Team
Two POWs

Snake Team
No POWs

Frog Team
One POW

IN THE END, IROHA-KUN'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAUGHT ANY PREY.

EXPECTED NO LESS? WE WERE PATHETIC.

THAT WAS CLOSER THAN I ANTICIPATED!

BUT I EXPECTED NO LESS FROM THE ELITES OF CIPHER ACADEMY!

...THAN WE THOUGHT...

MAYBE SHE JUST HAD A HARDER TIME ADAPTING TO OUTDOOR RULES...

...DESPITE HOW HARD IROHA-KUN WORKED TO WRANGLE HER INTO THIS.

WHAT REALLY SURPRISES ME IS HOW YUGATA-SAN ENDED UP DOING HARDLY ANYTHING...

AND SO, THE WINNER OF THE...

...CONTINUOUS GRADEWIDE LEADER BATTLE IS...

OUR INABILITY TO GRASP THAT DELICATE RELATIONSHIP LED US TO OUR DOWNFALL...

SHE DEVOTES HERSELF TO SUPPORTING HER CHILDHOOD FRIENDS TOSHU-SAN AND NOHIME-SAN.

...CLASS 1-A, THE *CLASS WHERE NO ONE GOT CAPTURED!*

THUS, THE FIRST GRADEWIDE LEADER OF CIPHER ACADEMY IS...

WHEN INSTRUCTOR IKUSU WAS EXPLAINING THE RULES...

AND IF THE TEAM WHOSE MEMBERS GET CAPTURED THE LEAST ENDS UP WINNING...

...SHE NEVER SAID THE TEAM WHO CAPTURED THE MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE THE WINNING TEAM.

...THEN IT'S BETTER FOR US TO CUT DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF SNAKES HERE.

WE SHOULD LET THEM GO.

TRUE... BUT IN THAT VEIN...

...THEY MIGHT USE THE TOTAL VALUE OF SURVIVORS AND PRISONERS TO DETERMINE THE WINNER INSTEAD.

DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S A HIGHER POSSIBILITY THAT THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS WILL FACTOR IN SOME-HOW, LIKE A NORMAL GAME?

YEAH, ANONY-MITY-SAN.

THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT VICTORIES IN WAR.

...NEITHER VICTORY NOR BEING THE GRADEWIDE LEADER MEANS ANYTHING TO ME.

BUT UNLESS EVERYONE'S SAFE...

IROHA IROHA-ZAKA!

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation: Dan Luffey

Lettering: Steve Dutro

THE STUDENTS FROM THE OTHER CLASSES...

I PREPARED QUITE A BIT OF BAUMKUCHEN...

...BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'RE GONNA COME, IROHAZAKA?

...SO I DID WHAT I COULD TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

I WANT THEM TO COME...

HEH.

WELL, I'M VERY SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, YOROKAWA-SAN.

IF THEY DON'T, WE'LL JUST EAT EVERYTHING OURSELVES, SO I DON'T REALLY CARE.

HM... WELL...

UNFOR-
TUNATELY,
WE OF
CLASS 1-E...

...CAN
INFILTRATE
ALL
MANNER OF
GATHERINGS.

HEY,
IROHA-
ZAKA-
KUN.

LET
ME HELP
OUT WITH
SOMETHING.

HOKI-
BOSHI-
SAN!

YOU
CAN TALK
NOW?!

Q.102 ①

Difficulty: ★★★★★

眠 Eye
新 New
8 "Ni"
にる "Ru"

OH, AND I FORGOT TO SAY THIS, BUT...

...SHORT HAIR LOOKS GOOD ON YOU...

...YUKAKO.

LET'S JUST FOCUS ON SAVING IROHAZAKA-KUN'S FACE TODAY.

YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO SEE MY FACE, BUT...

...WE'RE CELEBRATING, TOSHUSAI-SAN.

...

HEY, KID, WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

MIND IF I TEST HOW DURABLE IT IS?

IS THIS TABLE HANDMADE?

Q.102 ②

Difficulty : ★★★★☆

あ "A"
の "No"
A
ラ "Ra"
個 Counter for objects
あ "A"

CLASS 1-C LEADING PRIVATE...

...YONAKILIGUISU INVALIDES!

I DID PROMISE TO SPEND SOME TIME CHATTING WITH YOU, AFTER ALL...

...

YONAKI-LIGUISU-SAN! YOU REALLY CAME!

...ANOTHER DAY.

YEAH.

WE'LL HAVE OUR *CAPTAIN* TALK...

BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE...

...WE'LL GET A CHANCE TO DO THAT TODAY THOUGH...

ガヤガヤ
CHATTER
CHATTER

...GRADEWIDE LEADER IROHAZAKA?

WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO TALK ABOUT...

OF COURSE, WE OF CLASS 1-B...

...DON'T THINK WE LOST TO BEGIN WITH...

A BEAR?!

A BEAR?!

GRASS-HOPPER LEGS?!

YEP, TAYU-SAN, IN THIS WORLD...

...THERE EXIST HUMANS (BEARS) WHO ARE INCAPABLE OF ACCEPTING DEFEAT.

KNOCK IT OFF.

DON'T SNAP AT THEM JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A QUOKKA.

Q.102 ③

Difficulty : ★★★☆☆

個 Counter for objects

器 Container

— Dash or extender for katakana words

ク "Ku"

10

ツ "Tsu"

IF THE TRILEMMA CAPTURE LIST CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND...

...HAD BEEN A COMPETITION OF WHO CAPTURED THE MOST PREY, THEN WE WOULD HAVE WON.

AND WE WOULD HAVE NEVER HAD TO COME TO A PARTY LIKE THIS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, WE DIDN'T TAKE THE RISK OF HELPING CLASS C, THE CLASS WE WERE ALLIED WITH...

00:04:11
00:00:95

I DID NOTICE THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY WE WOULD ACTUALLY BE COMPETING FOR THE NUMBER OF SURVIVORS THOUGH...

YOU COULD SAY THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I SAVED MY THREE CLASSMATES.

WAS THAT "QUOKKA" LINE JUST NOW A PUN ON "LET'S EAT"?

...WE FAILED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR ALLIANCE. AND THAT'S WHY WE LOST.

...EVEN THOUGH CLASS C CAPTURED TWO PEOPLE FROM CLASS D FOR US. IN OTHER WORDS...

<3<3<3
SWP SWP

I KNOW. THE "BATTLE-FIELD DANCER," RIGHT?

AT SOME POINT, YOU, KOGOE, AND I WILL HAVE TO GET TOGETHER...

ALSO, RIKUKEITO-SAN...

I THINK YOU LET ME WIN.

...

IS THIS WHERE OUR FUNERAL IS BEING HELD?

SINCE WE COMPLETELY LOST, BOTH IN NUMBER OF PRISONERS AND SURVIVORS.

Q. 102 (4)

Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆

る "Ru"
最 Most or top
に "Ni"
す "Su"
を "Wo" or "o"
げ "Ge"

STOP BEING SO SELF-DEPRECATING, CLASS D.

IF THE TIME LIMIT HAD BEEN 45 MINUTES, YOU WOULD HAVE WON.

THEREFORE, THE OFFER TO BECOME MY ATTENDANTS IS STILL OPEN.

THANKS. MAKES ME WANT TO DIE.

YOU GOT ANYTHING TO ADD?

Q.102 ⑤

Difficulty : ★☆☆☆☆

鏡 Mirror

型 Type

個 Counter for objects

残 Remain

個 Counter for objects

0 Japanese period

NOTHING.

IF ANYTHING, I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR GETTING SO WORKED UP.

IS *SHE* NOT HERE?

OH... SEEMS LIKE *SHE* REALLY DOESN'T LIKE PARTIES...

...BUT DON'T WORRY.

SHE TOOK...

...A FRESHLY BAKED ONE THIS TIME.

MUNCH

YUM.

THIS ONE'S A KEEPER.

NOW THEN, WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I'D LIKE TO MAKE A TOAST.

WE'RE ALL HERE TO CELEBRATE IROHAZAKA IROHA-KUN'S PROMOTION...

...TO GRADEWIDE LEADER...

HIP...

HIP...

HOORAY!!

CHOP CHOP CHOP
ドドド

AND HERE I WAS CONVINCED THIS WAS A PRELIMINARY PASSWORD COMPOSITION DRILL.

A WARIFU-TYPE CODE...

THE CODE CAN'T BE COMPLETED UNLESS THE SIX OF US COME TOGETHER.

*Warifu are pieces of wood or paper that can be split apart and are traditionally used as proofs of purchase.

Q. 102 ⑥

Difficulty: ←— — — —

18兵士 Soldier

Various "Ru" "zu"

発音 図 ぎ 図 。

眼鏡 ∞ こんな

る最にえをげ

なの図いるもの

図 い い 路 図

ARE YOU IN YOUR RIGHT MIND, GRADEWIDE LEADER IROHAZAKA?

ARE YOU SERIOUS? NO...

...THE CONTINUOUS GRADEWIDE LEADER TOURNAMENT.

ANY CLASS COULD HAVE WON...

IT'S JUST AS ETESHITE-SAN AND NOHIME-SAN SAID.

THAT'S AN ELEMENTARY QUESTION.

...WHILE WE CRACK AS MANY CODES AS POSSIBLE...

...I WANT EVERYONE TO GET ALONG AND TREASURE EACH OTHER...

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I SAID...

...SO THAT WE CAN SHARE THE PEACE WE ATTAIN...

...WITHOUT LOSING A SINGLE PERSON.



CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 38: THE AFTERMATH

"...WHILE TWO OF THE REMAINING TEN WILL BE GIVEN TO EACH OF THE OTHER CLASSES."

"THERE ARE 18 STATE-OF-THE-ART GLASSES WEAPONS."

"EIGHT WILL BE GIVEN TO I-A..."

*The lines above are composed from the warifu in this chapter.

YOU'RE SO GENEROUS, IROHA... ESPECIALLY NOW THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN YOUR TICKET.

IT'S TRUE THAT CLASS A IS KNOWN AS THE INDISCRIMINATE CODING CLASS...

...BUT MOST OF THEM ARE INTERESTED IN CRYPTOCURRENCY AND THE METAVERSE.

THE BURDENSOME LEGACY OF THE DIGITAL CIPHER ACADEMY...

CHOMP ガブ

NOW YOU'VE GOT ME EXCITED TOO.

CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY THOUGH...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The Baumkuchen-shaped codes made from warifu were set at a difficulty of five stars for convenience's sake, but probably not even Tayu Yugata could figure out the sentence from looking at only one...or so I thought. Naturally, the difficulty drops with each warifu added. How many did you need to figure it out?

WHICH CIPHER SOLDIER WILL BE THE ONE TO UNEARTH THE 50 BILLION MORG?

THE CURIOSITY AND WARRING NEVER ENDS.

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

...OF THE MASS-PRODUCED MODEL GLASSES WEAPONS!

HERE YOU GO. UPDATED, BATTLEFIELD-USE VERSIONS...

Chapter 39: YOU CAN'T PUT AN ARMY ON A STONE

...THESE GLASSES HAVE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FOCAL POINTS FROM BEFORE.

CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, AND I'M SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT FROM ME, BUT...

JUST BE CAREFUL WHO YOU GIVE THESE TO!

Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Outro

AND YOU WON'T JUST BE PUTTING ON GLASSES...

...YOU'LL BE PUTTING YOUR LIVES ON THE LINE.

INTERVIEW
~~CONSCRIPTION~~ AREA

SHUTAN'S PARENTS WERE EMPLOYEES OF KICK-ATTACK PLANNING...

...BUT THEY BOTH DIED IN AN ACCIDENT DURING WEAPONS-DEVELOPMENT TESTING.

Kyora Toshusai
Born on May 1

EVER SINCE THEN, SHUTAN HAS (JUST BARELY) BEEN KYORARIN'S LITTLE SISTER.

Shutan Nutaba
Born on May 3

SHUTAN WAS THERE TOO, BUT SHUTAN SURVIVED...

...SO THE CEO AND HIS WIFE— KYORARIN'S PARENTS— TOOK SHUTAN IN.

WOW! YOUR PARENTS ARE TRUE PHILAN-THROPISTS, TOSHUSAI-SAN!

NOT EXACTLY, BUT THANK YOU.

THEY JUST HAD THEIR EYES SET ON THE NEW WEAPON PATENTS THAT SHUTAN INHERITED.

BUT SHUTAN ACTED LIKE SHE LOST HER MEMORY IN THE ACCIDENT...

...BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE PART IN DEVELOPING THE MURDER WEAPON THAT CAUSED THE DEATH OF HER PARENTS.

But Shutan's thankful to them for taking her in.

THAT'S ALSO THE REASON WHY SHUTAN LATER JOINED KYORA'S FORMER TEAM THAT FOCUSED ON DEVELOPING NON-LETHAL WEAPONS.

NOW...

...FOR OUR FINAL QUES-TION...

...

BUT THEN KYORA'S FORMER TEAM...

...WAS FORCED TO DISBAND BY SHITAI KUBINASHI (AND YUKAKO)...

...WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE DISPATCHED TO DIGITAL CIPHER ACADEMY AS A SOLDIER?

IF YOU RECEIVE A GLASSES WEAPON OVER SUMMER BREAK...

...

HM...

WE GOT OURSELVES ANOTHER RESERVE... GUESS WE SHOULD JUST BE GLAD SHE DIDN'T SAY NO.

AT FIRST I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHAT WE'D DO ONCE WE RAN OUT OF THE EIGHT GLASSES WEAPONS...

TAP

...KOGOE MADE AND ALLOTTED TO US. BUT AT THIS RATE, WE MIGHT END UP WITH SOME LEFT OVER.

SNAP

UNLIKE EVERYTHING THUS FAR, THIS ISN'T A SCHOOL EVENT...

...SO ONE MUST REMAIN CAREFUL AND WATCH HOW THINGS PROG-RESS.

THE FACT THAT KOGOE MADE THEM IS REASON ENOUGH TO CAUSE CONCERN.

IT HURT THAT YOSAIMURA-SAN SAID NO IN THE BEGINNING.

ALTHOUGH... I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE LIKE HER WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MORG.

IS KOSHIBAI-SAN THE ONLY ONE WHO JUMPED AT THE OFFER?

YEAH... SHE WAS SO EAGER IT MADE ME WANT TO PUT HER ON RESERVE.

SHE PROBABLY WANTS TO GO DOWN HER OWN SEPARATE PATH.

AND I'M SURE SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE.

ON THE FLIP SIDE, I'M SURPRISED ANONYMITY-SAN SAID NO.

...BECAUSE TOSHIISAI-SAN ASKED ME TO...

GUESS I SHOULD REPORT ON THIS.

I TRIED INVITING HER...

AH!

THAT'S RIGHT.

I'M DEFINITELY NOT GOING...

IF YOU'RE MY FRIEND...

...YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS, IROHAZAKA-KUN...

DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID LAST TIME?

THERE WOULD BE NO POINT IN DOING THAT.

THE SAME GOES FOR YUKAKO AND SHUTAN...

I THINK THINGS MIGHT HAVE GONE DIFFERENTLY IF YOU'D ASKED HER YOURSELF, TOSHUSAI-SAN.

...IS WHAT SHE SAID.

SHE REFUSED ME MORE FORCEFULLY THAN LAST TIME.

...

...I'M SURPRISED THAT TAYUTAN WOULD EVER CALL SOMEONE A FRIEND...!!

EVEN IF IT WAS JUST MEANING-LESS WORDS...

STILL...

WHAT GIVES, TOSHUSAI-SAN?!

WHERE DID THIS CRUCIAL BATTLE COME FROM ALL OF A SUDDEN?!

IF I WIN, YOU WILL PASS THE SEAT OF GRADEWIDE LEADER OVER TO ME.

WHAT ?!

IROHA-ZAKA-KUN.

I WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE YOU TO A CODE BATTLE.

Q.103

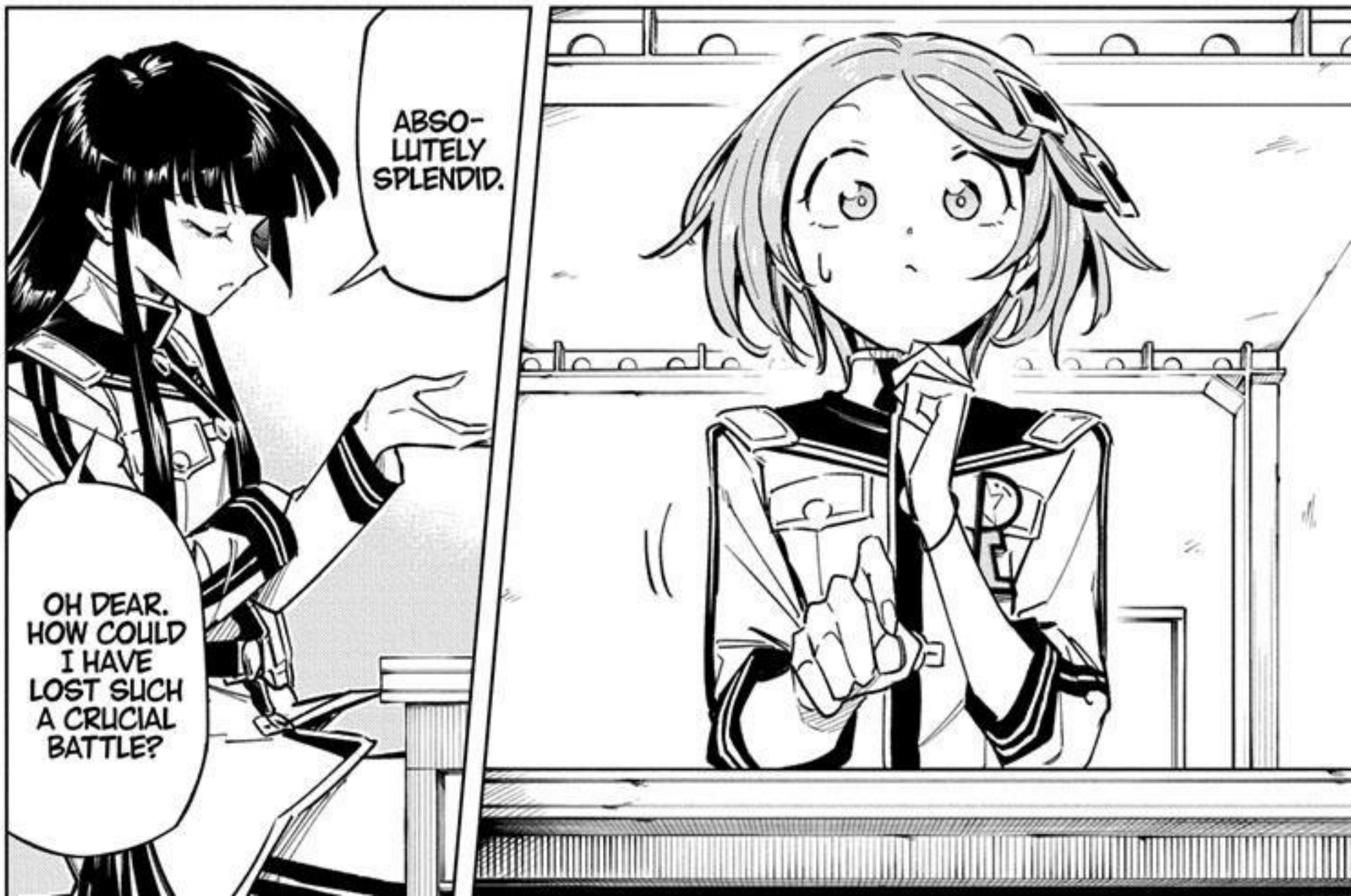
Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆

→右←

SELECT THE RIGHT ANSWER.

*The kanji character above means "right" (as in the opposite of "left").





HOW TAYUTAN AND I FIRST GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

I SUPPOSE I'LL JUST HAVE TO TELL YOU...

...HOW KYORA TOSHUSAI AND TAYU YUGATA...

DO YOU KNOW WHO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE WAS TEN YEARS AGO?

THAT'S FINE. IT'S PROOF THAT OUR COUNTRY IS AT PEACE.

SORRY, NOT OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD...

IN ANY CASE, THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE'S BELOVED DAUGHTER...

...IS NONE OTHER THAN TAYUTAN.

YUGATA-SAN IS THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE'S DAUGHTER ...?

THEN WHEN YOU SAID THAT YOU...

...AND YUGATA-SAN WERE CHILD-HOOD FRIENDS, DID YOU MEAN...?

YES. TAYUTAN, NON-NON, AND I...

...ARE FROM ELITE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL BACKGROUNDS.

WE WERE STRATEGICALLY FORCED TO GROW UP TOGETHER IN ORDER TO FUSE THOSE SPHERES.

DON'T TELL ME THE PREVIOUS ONE BECAME THE PRIME MINISTER OR SOMETHING...

BUT THERE'S A DIFFERENT MINISTER OF DEFENSE NOW, RIGHT?

WAIT A MINUTE.

ALMOST LIKE A POLITICAL MARRIAGE...

...

NO. THE PREVIOUS MINISTER OF DEFENSE WAS RUINED TEN YEARS AGO...

...AFTER A FATAL SCANDAL WAS REVEALED...

...CAUSING THEM TO LOSE ALL POLITICAL POWER.

NO, OF COURSE NOT.

THE ONE WHO EXPOSED THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE'S PLOT TO SUBVERT THE GOVERN-MENT...

DON'T TELL ME KUBINASHI-SAN WAS BEHIND THAT TOO...

THAT ISN'T THE CASE, IS IT?

SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN FIVE OR SOMETHING THEN...

?!

THE NATIONAL INTEREST WAS PROTECTED THANKS TO THAT INDICTMENT...

...AND IT WOULDN'T BE GOING TOO FAR TO SAY THAT IT EVEN STOPPED WARS.

...AND SENT THEM TO PRISON...

...BEING HUMILIATED BY A CHILD.

BUT IT RUINED THE CHILDHOOD-FRIEND PLAN, OF COURSE...

...AND RESULTED IN BOTH KICK-ATTACK PLANNING AND THE NOHIME FAMILY...

...WAS FIVE-YEAR-OLD TAYUTAN HERSELF.

FSSSSSH

アアアア

...FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

THEN YOU'LL JUST BE MY MAIDSERVANT ...

I DON'T CARE WHAT OUR RELATIONSHIP IS AS LONG AS WE CAN STAY TOGETHER.

NOW COME.

GO HOME AND PREPARE A BATH FOR ME.

FSSSSSH

AS YOU WISH...

...MA'AM.

...WAS BEHIND YUGATA-SAN'S PERPLEXING PERSON-ALITY.

I NEVER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT SORT OF SITUATION...

I'LL BECOME A GOOD ENOUGH FRIEND TO YUGATA-SAN FOR THE BOTH OF US!

ALL RIGHT! LEAVE THIS TO ME!



TOSHU-SAI-SAN...

AND SHE KEEPS CALLING NOHIME-SAN "NON-NON" LIKE IT'S NOTHING...

AND AS OF NOW, I CAN'T SAY THE RIGHT ANSWER WAS CHOSEN.

YOU DON'T NEED TO GO THAT FAR.

THUS, I CAN'T INVITE HER TO THIS CYBERBRAIN BATTLE.

...TAYUTAN CAN'T EXERCISE HER TRUE POWER DUE TO THE FACT THAT SHE'S MY SERVANT...

AT THE VERY LEAST, JUST LIKE WE SAW WITH THE TRILEMMA CAPTURE LIST...

IT'S AN OPTION WE CAN ONLY USE NOW, SINCE WE HAVEN'T GATHERED UP ENOUGH PEOPLE...

IN THAT CASE, THERE MIGHT BE A WAY...

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WANT YUGATA-SAN TO WANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM OUT OF HER OWN VOLITION, RIGHT?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

As senseless as this may seem, here's an explanation for Q. 103. All answers are "right" (correct). It's an opposite pattern from what Nohime-san used with Q. 98, which shows the difference between their two personalities. Yeah, they may be right that if you only ever search for what's right, you'll just end up finding that everyone's left. Also, Kyora-san needs to get better at losing on purpose.

...WILL BE HEADING INTO THE META-VERSE...

JUST THE TWO OF US...

FWAH ズン

AW... LOOKS LIKE TOSHIISAI-SAN AND I...

PUFF もぐ

PUFF もぐ

HALT ピタ

PLOP ポロ

NO ONE ELSE WANTS TO JOIN US, SO I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED!

OKAY THEN, ENJOY YOUR SUMMER BREAK, YUGATA-SAN!

...OUR FIRST FOUR SUMMER SELEC-TIONS!

One is tentative though...

BEST NINE

1. IROHA IROHAZAKA
2. KYORA TOSHUSAI
3. SHITSUKE KOSHIBAI (TENTATIVE)
4. TAYU YUGATA
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.

PENDING

- YUKAKO ONONUKO
- SHOKUHO YOROKAWA
- OTAMAJAKUSHI NAMUSHIHISHIMEKI
- SHUTAN NUTABA
- ASHIBI MOKUMOKUREN
- HARUKIRI BOTAYAMA
- SOBORO OBORO
- AKINA NANASU

DECLINE

- ROKAKU YOSAIMURA
- ENSA KASURI
- ANONYMITY REQUESTED
- IESUNO NOHIME
- KAKUNE KANIGANE
- ★★ SUNKA UNITSUBAME
- KANSUROTTO HAHAKURA

ALL RIGHT! NOW WE'VE LOCKED IN...

YEAH.

BUT BEFORE THAT...

SHOULD WE INTERVIEW EVERYONE AGAIN, INCLUDING THE PEOPLE WHO DECLINED?

...SO THAT LEAVES FIVE GLASSES WEAPONS LEFT OVER... WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH THOSE?

BUT TOSHUSAI-SAN HAS THE ORIGINAL ...

AND IT'LL BE ELEMENTARY TO ME!

...THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO CONVINCE.

To be continued!

THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO CONVINCE.

AND IT'LL BE ELEMENTARY TO ME!

OOOH! WHO? WHO?

WAIT, LET ME GUESS, SINCE I'M A CIPHER SOLDIER!

BASED ON WHAT YOU SAID, IT'S GOT TO BE SOMEONE SURPRISING, RIGHT? MOKU-MOKUREN-SAN?

OR NAMASU-SAN, WHO STILL HAS YET TO LIFT HER MYSTERIOUS MASK?

OR COULD IT BE OUR IMAGINARY CLASSMATE WAON WASURENA-GUSA-SAN?

?

NYO!

EN-CHAN, IT'S YOU.

I GOT IT! BOTA...

CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 40: WHOEVER DECODES IT SHOULD DO IT

Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

IF OUR WHOLE CLASS CAN GO, THEN I WANT US TO GO TOGETHER.

AND IF ONE PERSON HAS TO STAY BEHIND, THEN I WILL.

NINE MEMBERS WILL BE CHOSEN FOR THIS MYSTERIOUS CYBERBRAIN BATTLE...

...BUT REGARDLESS OF WHO THE REMAINING FIVE END UP BEING...

...AND NO MATTER WHO ENDS UP BEING ONE OF THE NINE, I WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS.

AND IF I HAVE TO GO WITH ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON...

...I WANT THAT PERSON TO BE YOU.

...IRO-
IRO.

YOU'RE OVER-ESTIMATING ME...

I DON'T HAVE A SAD PAST LIKE NUTABA-SAN.

NOR AM I IN A COMPLICATED SITUATION LIKE YUGATA-SAN.

I JUST SYMPA-THIZED WITH THE ACADEMY'S PRINCI-PLES...

I'M NOT A SCHEMER LIKE ANONYMITY-SAN.

I DON'T HAVE ANY NOBILITY LIKE YOSAIMURA-SAN.

NOR AM I CHARMING LIKE BOTAYAMA-SAN.

...THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT. I DON'T HAVE ANY SORT OF EXPERIENCE...

THAT'S NOT A LIE. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...

OH ME, OH MY.

FLASH

...THAT WOULD PUSH ME TO THE NEXT STAGE—

GOOD EVENING.

IT'S THE LEADING PRIVATE OF CLASS I-E, SHITAI KUBI-NASHI...

...SAN...

ENSA KASURI-SAN, WAS IT?

I BELIEVE IT'S OUR FIRST TIME SPEAKING. GOOD EVENING.

I SEE. UNLIKE OUR CLASS E, WHICH ONLY RECEIVED TWO AS A PITTANCE...

TOK

TOK

TOK

...YOU HAVE A TOTAL OF NINE GLASSES WEAPONS, WHICH IS ACTUALLY MAKING IT HARDER TO CHOOSE, PERHAPS?

...

NOD

NOD

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS LITTLE TIDBIT?

CLASS A WAS UTILIZED FOR THE GLASSES WEAPONS' PROOF OF CONCEPT TESTS...

...BUT THERE'S ONE PERSON ASIDE FROM THE TOSHIISAI AND NOHIME FACTIONS...

...WHO DR. KOGOE DIDN'T APPROACH.

THAT'S YOU...

...KASURI-SAN.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT... BUT...

...THAT JUST PROVES MY POINT.

I'M THE BIGGEST WEAKLING IN OUR CLASS...

HEH HEH! IN THAT CASE...

...IT'S CLEAR WHY IROHAZAKA-KUN DECIDED TO INVITE YOU!

HE WANTS TO TAKE ALONG A "SCREW-UP" ON PURPOSE.

I SUPPOSE HE WANTS A MEAT SHIELD... SOMEONE WHO WILL TAKE THE HITS FOR HIM.

THROUGH THE GRADEWIDE LEADER BATTLES, HE PROBABLY LEARNED THAT CREATING THE ULTIMATE TEAM CAN LEAD TO A SURPRISING LACK OF BALANCE...

...IT WAS ALSO PROVEN THAT NOTHING BUT CONTINUOUS WINS LEADS TO ISOLATION.

HAVING AN IDIOT WHO HOLDS THE GROUP BACK ACTUALLY HELPS EVERY-ONE COME TOGETHER...

IROHA IROHAZAKA ...

...WOULD NEVER...

...THINK LIKE THAT!

YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO PROVE IT, THEN.

PROVE THAT YOU AREN'T THE BIGGEST WEAKLING IN YOUR CLASS...

...IN THE DIGITAL CIPHER ACADEMY.

I KNOW WHAT THIS IS, OF COURSE.

THIS TOO...

...IS SOME KIND OF FATED GRUDGE.

I'LL JUST HAVE AN ENDLESS AMOUNT OF EXPERIENCES...

...FROM HERE ON OUT WITH IRO-IRO!

I JUST WANTED TO CHASE HER OUT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE LAST MET. I DON'T WANT ANYONE RUINING THIS...

...ENCOURAGE SOMEONE LIKE THAT IN SUCH AN OBVIOUS MANNER.

IT'S RARE TO SEE YOU...

YUKAKO.

...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Technically, I did reach out to Nutaba, the secret member of the Toshusai faction. I also reached out to Yorokawa—when she had just entered the academy and thus before she became a member of the Nohime faction. Those two, along with Botayama and Yosaimura, refused to take part in the glasses weapon demo. Also, since it could affect my likability, I will say that I didn't refrain from reaching out to Kasuri because she's a weakling. I dunno if that reason's the opposite of why Iroha invited her though.

Q.104

Difficulty: ★★★☆☆

The 137790th Bullet

...

...AT THE PARTY THE OTHER DAY.

CLASS 1-D, METHANEGAS MENGATA-SUZUME.

INVALIDES YONAKIUGUISU MADE A BIG DEAL ABOUT HOW OUR NAMES ARE SIMILAR...

UM... AND YOUR NAME IS...

THIS IS...FROM YONAKI-UGUISU-SAN...?

IN ORDER TO CONFIRM YOUR IDENTITY, CAN YOU TELL ME THEIR NAME?

BUT THEN, YOU SAID THAT YOU KNEW SOMEONE...

...WHO HAS AN EVEN MORE *SIMILAR NAME.*

INVICIOUS YONAKI-UGUISU.

...AND SOMEONE I OWE MY LIFE TO.

THE LEADER OF THE CHEERLEADING CLUB FROM MY MIDDLE SCHOOL.

SOMEONE I RESPECT...

...SHE WILL TALK TO YOU *THERE*, SO WHY DON'T YOU GO AND SEE HER?

IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WISH TO ASK *HER*...

...AS THE *LITTLE SISTER*...

OKAY.

...

EVERY CLASS IS.

I'M NOT THE MESSENGER BECAUSE I'M DROWNING IN FREE TIME.

...BUT CLASS A IS BUSY PREPARING FOR SUMMER BREAK RIGHT NOW.

UH... WELL, I'D LOVE TO GO...

JUST GO, IRO-IRO.

I'LL KEEP WORKING ON CHOOSING MEMBERS IN THE MEANTIME.

HUH?! EN...

...CHAN...?

WE NEED...

...FOUR MORE PEOPLE NOW, RIGHT?

TOK
TOK
I CAN PROBABLY LEAVE THE SELECTION TO HER BASED ON WHAT I JUST SAW.
IF SHE'D SAID NO, I WOULD HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...
MMF!
BWUP
JUST LIKE EN-CHAN QUICKLY MENTIONED YESTERDAY...
...NAMASU-SAN'S THE ONE PERSON WHOSE PERSONALITY I STILL DON'T QUITE GET...
...
THAT RE-MINDS ME...

DON'T RUN IN THE HALL-WAY.

WOULDN'T YOU SAY THAT'S COMMON SENSE IN EVERY SCHOOL?

HUP

ぴょい

SORRY, I WAS THINKING ABOUT SOME-THING...

UH... ETESHITE-SAN?

I CAME TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADER.

YES. QUOKKA ETESHITE FROM CLASS 1-B, THE ONE IN COSTUME.

Do niche sports.

Q.105

Difficulty: ★★★☆☆

...YOU ARE INVITED TO COME HERE.

Do niche sports.

IF YOU WISH TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE "BATTLEFIELD DANCER"...

...REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS OF SOMEONE I OWE MY LIFE TO.

WELL, I CAN'T SAY I DON'T WANT TO, BUT...

...I ALREADY HAVE A PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT ...

WHA—?!

IN THAT CASE, YOU SHOULD PRIORITIZE YOUR CURRENT ENGAGEMENT.

IF YOU THINK YOU'LL STILL BE ABLE TO ACQUIRE THIS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION ...

...AT A LATER DATE, THAT IS.

SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE...

CHOOSE THE INFORMATION YOU WISH TO KNOW.

...OR THE CURRENT STATE OF SOMEONE YOU ARE INDEBTED TO...

To be continued!

THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME ABOUT THE TRUE ESSENCE OF CHEERLEADING ...

AMVICIOUS YONAKI-UGUISU.

...THE POLICE OR EVEN MY PARENTS, BUT MY CAPTAIN.

WHEN WE GOT CAPTURED BY RAIDERS DURING OUR TRIP, I WASN'T SAVED BY...

...TO SEE THEM AGAIN.

I'D DO ANYTHING...

THIS INTEL HAD BETTER BE GOOD, RIKUKEITO-SAN!

AND YET...

I CHOSE TO COME HERE INSTEAD.

BUT CONSIDERING HOW I'M ABOUT TO REVEAL THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE "BATTLEFIELD DANCER"...

...I WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE SERIOUS ABOUT HEARING IT.

BUMP

...INVA WAS TRYING TO HOOK YOU WITH INTEL ON HER "OLDER SISTER."

BUT THE TRUTH IS, I KNEW...

THAT ISN'T MY PROBLEM... THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY...



CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 41: WALK THREE STEPS BACK AND BE CAREFUL NOT TO STEP ON THE SHADOWS OF THOSE WHO DIED IN WAR



Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Outro



JAPAN.

BUMP

SWIP

DASH

YOU'RE THINKING THERE'S NO WAY, RIGHT?

THAT'S WHERE THE "BATTLEFIELD DANCER" IS DANCING.

...ARE BEING UPLOADED FROM JAPAN.

WELL, THAT'S THE REASON WHY THOSE ENCRYPTED VIDEOS...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

This is an explanation for readers who are just joining us. The "battlefield dancer" refers to dance videos that got a lot of buzz all over the world. Strangely enough, the post dates of the videos match up with a civil war happening in a certain country. Iroha was able to see through the ruse and realize that the dancer was being forced to dance, but the videos were protected with high-level security, so no one was able to determine the dancer's location.

ONE COULD ALSO SAY THE FACT THAT THEY'RE BEING UPLOADED FROM OUR OWN COUNTRY...

...IS THE REASON WHY THE INFORMATION SCRAMBLING CLASS WAS ABLE TO UNEARTH THE TRUTH.

Decrypting scrambled information is our forte...

SHWOOO

WHAP

FWSH

WE AREN'T CLEAR YET ON WHAT ORGANIZA-TION THE RINGLEADER BELONGS TO, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO GET TOO CLOSE TO THEM.

AFTER ALL, THEY'RE SOMEONE WHO CAME UP WITH THIS IDEA...

...AS A WAY TO POTENTIALLY TURN JAPAN INTO A POWDER HOUSE.

IDEOLOGY CENSORED

I MEAN, DIDN'T JAPAN RENOUNCE WAR ALMOST A CENTURY AGO?!

GATHERING 15-YEAR-OLD GIRLS TOGETHER AND TALKING ABOUT THE HOME FRONT?!

SO...

HOW CAN I SAVE THE DANCER?

...A BEGINNER'S TUTORIAL...

...THAT DR. KOGOE RANDOMLY PICKED OUT OF VARIOUS TRAGEDIES.

YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU, IROHAZAKA?

THE "BATTLEFIELD DANCER" WAS ORIGINALLY...

AND YET YOU'RE STILL...

...HUNG UP ON IT. WHY?

...IF SHE'D UNDERSTOOD THE TRUTH FROM THE BEGINNING.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S SUCH A HIGH-RISK ISSUE THAT DR. KOGOE PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE SUGGESTED IT TO YOU...

...FOR TODAY... ♡

ENOUGH...

I DO FEEL LIKE SHE'S A GENIUS...

...CONSIDERING HOW LUCKY SHE WAS TO HAVE THIS WHOLE THING BECOME SO UNEXPECTEDLY GRANDIOSE.

WELL.

I'LL KEEP IT A SECRET THAT I CHOSE THIS CODE BECAUSE I WANTED TO WATCH YOU DANCE, IROHA.

WOW. CHEERLEADING. HUH.

ANSWER MY QUESTION ...

...GRADE-WIDE LEADER IROHAZAKA.

THAT REMINDS ME, WHERE IS KOGOE?

I THOUGHT THE THREE OF US WERE GOING TO HAVE THIS DISCUSSION TOGETHER.

しるしる SWIP SWIP

I UNDERSTAND YOUR SYMPATHY, GIVEN THAT YOU'RE A FORMER DANCER YOURSELF.

BUT YOU SHOULD STILL KNOW WHEN TO RETREAT.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE... WHY NOT GO SEE THE PERSON YOU OWE YOUR LIFE TO NOW?

"I WANTED TO HELP SOMEONE TOO, JUST LIKE YOU HELPED ME."

"BUT IT DIDN'T TURN OUT HOW I THOUGHT IT WOULD, SO I BACKED OUT IN THE END!"

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO THE PERSON I OWE MY LIFE TO?

THAT'S HARDER FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND THAN ANY SORT OF CODE...

"I NEVER THOUGHT THE BOY I SAVED BACK THEN..."

"...WOULD LATER GO ON TO SAVE THE WORLD."

DO YOU WANT TO SURPRISE THEM?

KICK トン

YES, I DO. IF I SEE MY CAPTAIN AGAIN...

...IT'LL BE AFTER I'VE SAVED THE DANCER.

BUMP トン

I WANT IT TO BE AFTER I'VE ACHIEVED MY DREAM.

STOPPING ALL WARS IN THE WORLD...

...IS MY AMBITION.

1-A



EN-CHAN?

A MOLE FROM CLASS E IS MIXED IN WITH THE TEAM MEMBERS YOU PICKED...

NO, IRO-IRO...

THERE'S AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR THAT.

...TO FORM AN ALLIANCE, AND THEY ACCEPT-ED!

IN OTHER WORDS, D AND F'S UNITED TEAM...

...WILL BE MOVING ON TO THE FINAL ROUND!

THE HISTORY BETWEEN THE TOSHUSAI GROUP AND CLASS E WAS ONE OF THE REASONS...

...WE WEREN'T ABLE TO FORGE AN ALLIANCE WITH THEM DURING THE GRADE-WIDE LEADER BATTLE.

I INTEND TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR THAT AS FAR AS THIS CYBERBRAIN BATTLE IS CONCERNED.

LET ME EXPLAIN...

...IROHAZAKA-KUN.

HUH...? ARE YOU SERIOUS? THAT'S SO SAD...

I MEAN, I KNOW THAT OMOMURO-SAN IS THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF SERVING AS OUR MEDIATOR TO CLASS E...

...BUT ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT, TOSHIISAI-SAN?

A

E

TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, WE EXCHANGED HOSTAGES.

WE TRADED YUKAKO FOR HANAGOROMO-SAN...

...WHICH ALLOWED US TO FORM AN ALLIANCE WITH CLASS E.

IT DOESN'T MATTER... YUKAKO DECIDED TO DO IT ON HER OWN...

...WITHOUT EVER COMING TO ME.

HER INDEPEN-DENCE HAS SHOCKED ME BEYOND WORDS.

WHAT'S WRONG, TOSHIISAI-SAN?

YOU'RE TURNING YOUR BACK TO ME, AS IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO SEE YOUR EXPRESSION...

...

HMPH.

YOU MAY HAVE A LOFTIER TITLE NOW, BUT YOU'RE STILL AS CLUELESS AS EVER...

...IROHA-ZAKA.

TSU-BAME'S PART OF THE "REAL WORLD GROUP"...

OF COURSE. SO THAT I MAY SURPASS YOU.

...BUT I ALWAYS INTENDED TO GO.

YOU'RE REALLY GONNA GO INTO THE METAVERSE WITH US?!

OBORO-SAN!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU...

M-M-M...

MORE IMPOR-TANTLYYY...

...I DIDN'T WANT TO NAME MYSELF BEFORE A CERTAIN SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN SUPPORTING YOU FROM THE SIDELINES...

I SIMPLY HESITATED DUE TO THE FACT THAT...

...AND WENT HER SEPARATE WAY.

IN THE END, SHE HANDED ME THIS STRANGE NOTE...

IT TURNS OUT I COULDN'T CONVINCE YOSAIMURA-SAN OR ANONYMITY-SAN IN THE END...

I REALLY THOUGHT ANONYMITY-SAN WOULD BE INTERESTED THOUGH...

Q.106

Difficulty: ★★★☆☆



*The code involves interpreting kanji/kana from the gray scraps in a certain way so that it phonetically sounds out "see you again."








ICE
COLD
READING
!!

JUST LIKE HOW WEAPONS OF WAR WOULD NO LONGER BE NECESSARY IF ALL WARS ENDED.

IN THE END, THOSE DANCE VIDEOS WERE MILITARY ORDERS.

IF THE ORIGINAL CIVIL WAR WERE TO END, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR THEM TO GO ON DANCING.

THAT WAY TIES IN DIRECTLY TO THE REASON WHY I DIDN'T CALL DR. KOGOE HERE.

IF YOU ARE TRULY THAT DETERMINED, THERE IS A WAY TO SAVE THEM.

NOT JUST THE DANCER, BUT ALL CIPHER SOLDIERS WILL BE FREED...

...INCLUDING US.

IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU ACQUIRE THE 50 BILLION MORG WITHIN THE METAVERSE ...

...AND MAKE YOUR DREAM COME TRUE.

DIGITAL CIPHER ACADEMY
→LOG IN
(THIS OPERATION CANNOT BE CANCELED.)

To be continued!

WELCOME TO THE CIPHER ACADEMY META-VERSE!

I'LL BE YOUR NAVIGATOR, THE CAPABLE A.I....

...DEKIAI-CHAN!

CIPHER ACADEMY

第一期デジタル暗号学園探索隊

*First Term Digital Cipher Academy Expedition Team

Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

Chapter 42: WAR IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING THOUGH... WHOEVER DESIGNED THIS NAVIGATOR AS A CUTE GIRL MUST BE TOTALLY OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE TIMES, RIGHT?!

DON'T SAY ANYTHING RUDE!

UM... DEKIAI-CHAN?

OH NO... IT'S JUST, BEFORE WE GET INTO THE IMPORTANT STUFF...

THERE-FORE, ALL THE GUIDES ASIDE FROM ME ARE OLD MALE BUTLERS...

BUT IF I WERE A MACHO GUY INSTEAD, THIS WOULD ALL END UP AS MANSPLAIN-ING!

...IT'S NOT REAL PER SE...

THAT'S RIGHT!

WELL...

...IT'S *VIRTUAL.*

...THE REAL META-VERSE?

...IS *THIS PLACE...*

THIS IS CLASS M-1...

...ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF CIPHER ACADEMY!

THE FIRST CORNER OF THE FIRST BLOCK OF THE ARTIFICIAL-REALITY SPACE THAT YOU CAN DIVE INTO...

...THANKS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLASSES WEAPONS!

...AND JUST TRUST IN DEKIAI-CHAN!

DON'T SAY ANYTHING RUDE...

YET BEDS ARE THE ONLY FURNITURE WE HAVE IN THE BOYS' DORM...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT... I MEAN, I UNDERSTAND HOW I CAN SEE EVERYTHING HERE...

...BUT I CAN FEEL THE DESK AND THE CHAIR TOO...

KNOCK

THAT'S BEING USED TO *SHOW* THIS TO ALL YOUR SENSES!

THE PHENOMENON WHERE SOUND CAN BE SEEN, SMELLS CAN BE HEARD, AND TASTES CAN BE TOUCHED.

YOU'VE HEARD OF SYNESTHESIA, YES?

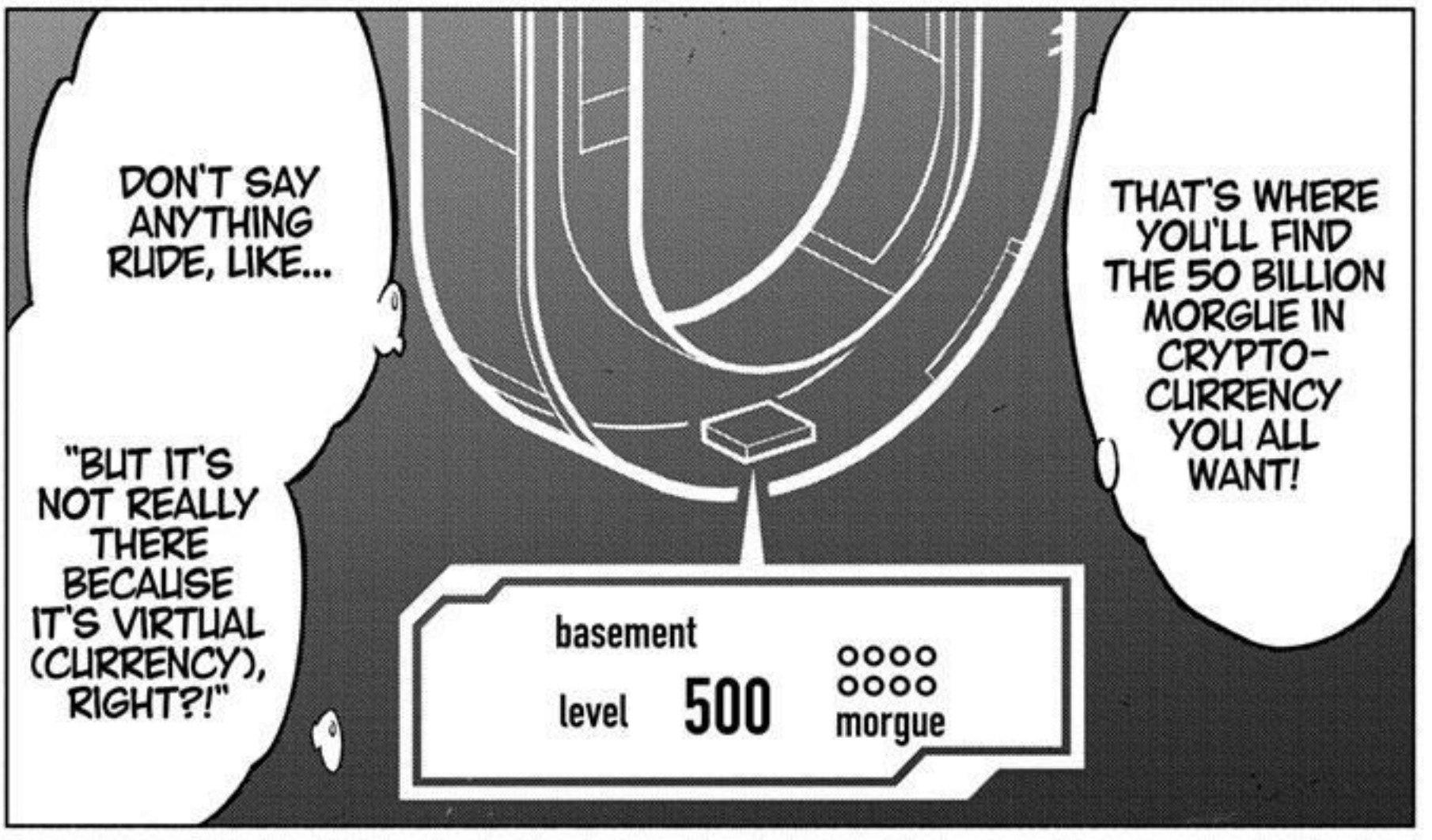
POOF

OKAY, TIME TO EXPLAIN THE RULES!

THE SCHOOL RULES, THAT IS!

THIS IS A PART OF CIPHER ACADEMY, AFTER ALL.


FWOOM
REAL VIRTUAL
THE CIPHER ACADEMY METAVERSE IS AN EXPLORATION-STYLE DUNGEON FILLED WITH MYSTERIES AND ADVENTURE!
YOU'LL TRY TO HEAD DOWN AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO WHILE SOLVING THE DIFFICULT PUZZLES THAT STAND IN YOUR WAY ON EACH FLOOR.
DO YOUR BEST TO REACH THE LOWEST FLOOR, B500, OKAY?!


DON'T SAY ANYTHING RUDE, LIKE...
"BUT IT'S NOT REALLY THERE BECAUSE IT'S VIRTUAL (CURRENCY), RIGHT?!"
THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND THE 50 BILLION MORGUE IN CRYPTO-CURRENCY YOU ALL WANT!
basement
level 500
morgue

CODES MUST BE SOLVED WITH A SMILE ON ONE'S FACE!

WELL, I WANT YOU TO HAVE FUN!

DUNGEON...? THIS ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE SOME SORT OF GAME, DEKIAI-CHAN.

ONE FLOOR FOR EACH HUNDRED MILLION MORGUE!

POOF

...TO MAKE SURE THE MINING DOESN'T GET BORING!

SO WE'VE CHANGED THINGS UP A BIT...

THE ACT OF MINING CRYPTO-CURRENCY IS BASICALLY AN EXTREMELY STRAIGHT-FORWARD REPETITION OF CALCULA-TIONS.

YOU NEED TO SMILE WHEN YOU SOLVE CODES!

...

...

THAT REMINDS ME...

...USED TO *GAMIFY* THINGS IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE GUILT ONE GETS FROM WAR!

POOF

OF COURSE, IT'S ALSO A VARIATION OF A MODERN STRATEGY...

BZZT

...THAT MATCHES UP WITH THEIR SKILL LEVEL.

THE OPERATORS HAVE ACCUMULATED A SEMESTER'S WORTH OF DATA ON EVERY STUDENT...

...AND THUS EACH STUDENT HAS BEEN PLACED AT A STARTING POINT...

...AND WE ALL SHOULD'VE LOGGED IN AT THE SAME TIME...

THERE SHOULD BE 19 OF US...

WHERE'S EVERY-ONE ELSE?

HERE'S HOW THINGS ENDED UP.

Iroha Irohazaka (Ground Floor)

Pike Togenanafushigi (B9)

Kakune Karigane (B25)

Byu Hanagoromo (B44)

Yukako Omomuro (B75)

Tonbo Rikukeito (B100)

Shakunage Hakanage (B130)

Tayu Yugata (B150)

Kyora Toshusai (B200)

Ensa Kasuri (B5)

Namo Nakigara (B13)

Arei Aen (B20)

Methanegas Mengatasuzume (B30)

Soboro Oboro (B50)

Akina Namasu (B88)

Quokka Eteshite (B99)

Shitsuke Koshibai (B111)

Invalides Yonakiuguisu (B140)

Shitai Kubinashi (B175)

G
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100
110
120
130
140
150
160
170
180
190
200
210
220
230
240

IRREGULAR RESULTS DURING EVENTS ARE REGRESSED ACCORDING TO THE AVERAGE MEAN IN THE END.

IT'S NORMALLY BASED ON ONE'S ACTUAL GRADES IN CLASS, YOU SEE.

POOF

TOSHUSAI-SAN GOT PUT ON B200? I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED AS MUCH...

WAIT, I'M DEAD LAST!

WHY?! I WORKED PRETTY HARD DURING THE CONTINUOUS TOURNA-MENT!

STILL GOT ANY COMPLAINTS AFTER HEARING ALL THAT?

OF COURSE, OTHER ELEMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN ADDED TO YOUR OVERALL SCORE!

PERSONALITY, TEMPERAMENT, EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS, REWARDS, AND PUNISHMENTS...

I GUESS THIS MEANS MY FIRST MISSION IS TO CATCH UP WITH EVERYONE...

THEN WHY IS KOSHIBAI-SAN, SOMEONE WHO ACTS FAR FROM SERIOUS DURING CLASS, SO HIGH UP (OR LOW) ON THE LIST? BECAUSE SHE'S A GAMER?

SHE'S THE ONLY ONE ON A THREE-DIGIT FLOOR BESIDES YUGATA-SAN AND THE OTHER LEADING PRIVATES...

NO...

...

SHALL WE GET GOING THEN?!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT! I MAY BE AN A.I., BUT YOU'VE STILL MOVED ME!

Q.107

Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆

JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET KICKED BACK OUT TO THE REAL WORLD...

...DURING THIS TUTORIAL, OKAY?!

A QR CODE?!

W-WELL, YEAH, I GUESS THIS QUALIFIES AS A CODE...

...BUT THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DECODED WITH THE NAKED EYE!

...

BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY WEARING THOSE SMART GLASSES, REMEMBER?

OF COURSE, ONCE YOU HIT THE BASEMENT...

...YOU WON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE SUPPORT FEATURES YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO USE UP UNTIL NOW!

!

HEY.

...MEETING UP WITH TOSHIISAI WILL BE NOTHING MORE THAN A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM!

IF YOU CAN'T EVEN SOLVE A CODE LIKE THIS...

NATURALLY, THE CODES WILL GET HARDER AND HARDER THE LOWER YOU GO.

ACCOUNT FROZEN

SO DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU BECOME MY MAID-SERVANT?

TOSHIISAI, WAIT!

YOUR PUZZLE WAS SOLVED, WHICH MEANS YOU LOST.

I'VE HEARD IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE, HAVEN'T I?

I JUST REALIZED, DEKIAI-CHAN...

YOUR VOICE.

ガラ RATTLE

...

...SO MY SPEECH WAS A BIT STIFF!

DID YOU FINALLY REMEMBER ME?

OF COURSE, BACK THEN I STILL HAD A LOT TO LEARN...

OF COURSE I'M SURE...

YOU'RE THE ONE IT WAS ORIGINALLY GIVEN TO, REMEMBER?

HUH? THE ORIGINAL GLASSES WEAPON?

ARE YOU SURE, TOSHUSAI-SAN?

YOU SHOULD USE THIS ONE.

I'LL LOG IN WITH ONE OF THE MASS-PRODUCED MODELS...

...MASTER.

...THE WAR-DISASTER CRYPTO-FUNDS TO YOU AS WELL.

BESIDES. I'VE NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF HANDING OVER...

A LOT HAS HAPPENED...

NO EVEN BLACK COAT NO-

...

...SINCE THE FIRST TIME YOU AND I SPOKE IN THIS LIBRARY...

AND NOW THAT YOU'VE SAFELY BECOME THE GRADE-WIDE LEADER...

...IT'S ABOUT TIME WE SLAPPED THE TOGE-SHU-ZAKA ALLIANCE IN THE BUTT AND PUT AN END TO IT.

I RESPECT YOUR GRAND DREAM, IROHAZAKA-KUN,

BUT I HAVE MY OWN DREAM TOO.

RATTLE

FROM HERE ON OUT, IT'S WAR.

AND I FOR ONE INTEND TO CLAIM THE HIGHEST SEAT WITHIN CIPHER ACADEMY...

...AND BECOME THE CODE EMPEROR.

ELEMEN-TARY...

NOW THAT YOU'VE ACKNOWL-EDGED ME AS AN ENEMY...

...I DON'T NEED TO CATCH UP TO YOU ANYMORE—I SIMPLY NEED TO SURPASS YOU.







Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The Toge-Shu-Zaka Alliance was broken without me knowing...

READING!!

COLD

ICE

I SHOULD TREAT THIS JUST LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE!

FWP

WHO CARES IF THINGS ARE DIGITAL NOW?

...BUT THAT'S IF THIS ACTUALLY WAS A QR CODE!

IT'S TRUE THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DECODE A QR CODE WITH THE NAKED EYE...

SMAK

IF YOU VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY REVERSE IT, IT BECOMES THIS!

ROGUELIKE ZERO TO 500!

AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL MAKE YOUR WAY TO B500 IN NO TIME!

CORRECT. WELL DONE!

RATTLE ガラララ…

?!

...BUT EVEN I KNOW WHAT "ROGUELIKE" MEANS!

I MAY NOT BE VERY WELL-VERSED IN VIDEO GAMES...

IN NO TIME? YEAH, RIGHT.

RATTLE ガラ

...

I DON'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME...

THAT'S JUST THE WAY GAMES WORK THOUGH, SO TRY TO ENJOY YOURSELF!

NOW THAT YOU'VE BOUGHT YOURSELF SOME TIME, WHY DON'T YOU HURRY ON AHEAD?

PLAYING THIS FOR TOO LONG WILL DESTROY YOUR BRAIN, AFTER ALL.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Theoretically, it's not impossible to solve a QR code with the naked eye. Incidentally, ground floor = B0. Some regions overseas count what would be the second floor in Japan as the first floor. Therefore, if you count the floors as 0 to 500, it actually means that the digital Cipher Academy has 501 floors, but that sounds clunky, so we'll just keep it as a nice round 500.

1-M

IT'S ELEMEN...

1-N

...TARYYYYYYYY...

"I SHOULD JUST TREAT THESE LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE." YOU AREN'T WRONG...

...BUT DON'T SAY ANYTHING RUDE!

ARTIFICIAL REALITY IS ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL THAN REALITY, JUST SO YOU KNOW!

THIS ROGUELIKE DUNGEON WILL ALLOW YOU ALL TO EXPERIENCE CIPHER BATTLES...

...IN ALL SORTS OF INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS.

Cipher Academy Metaverse B1

Air Raid Shelter Floor

To be continued!

Chapter 43: IT'S BETTER TO HAVE A BIG WAR THAN A SMALL WAR

Cipher Academy Metaverse B1/500

Air Raid Shelter Floor

I'VE SEEN AN EXHIBIT ON ONE OF THESE IN THE FACILITY...

...BUT THIS IS MY FIRST TIME ENTERING A REAL AIR RAID SHELTER...

CIPHER ACADEMY

Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation: Dan Luffey Lettering: Steve Dutro

HM?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Iroha seems to be employing the right-hand rule.

WAIT! THIS IS VIRTUAL REALITY!

I NEED TO MAKE SURE I DON'T GET TOO SWEPT UP IN IT!

BEEP!

TH...

THAT'S ...

...AN UN-EXPLODED ORD-NANCE!

BEEP!

WHY WOULD AN UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE BE IN AN AIR RAID SHELTER...?!

BEEP!

IS IT *BECAUSE* IT'S AN AIR RAID SHELTER?!

SHUP

BEEP!

?!

A CODE ?!

KLANG

Q.108

LEVEL.★★☆☆☆

28 ▷◁ 47

00:00:10

ポロ

KLATTER

AND I ONLY HAVE...TEN SECONDS?!

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

KINDA LIKE CHOOSING THE RED OR GREEN WIRE WHEN DEFUSING A BOMB?

DOES THIS MEAN I HAVE TO CHOOSE ONE OF THE NUMBERS?!

NO...

28 ▷◁ 47

00:00:05

WHICH COULD IT BE? ODD NUMBERS...? EVEN NUMBERS...? PRIME NUMBERS...?

WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF I DIE FROM AN EXPLOSION?!

I'M SO TIRED OF HAVING TO RUSH THROUGH THINGS AT THIS POINT THOUGH...

THIS GAME'S SO DETAILED THAT IT'S EVEN REPRODUCING THE HUMIDITY INSIDE THIS CAVE.

BEEEEP

:00:03

パチ SHP

28 47

00:0 03

THIS IS A MATH SYMBOL! AND 28...

...IS LESS THAN 47!

...BUT THIS FEELS SO SUDDEN FOR THE FIRST QUESTION ON THE GROUND FLOOR!

I WAS PREPARED FOR THIS TO BE A DUNGEON FULL OF NOTHING BUT PUZZLES...

00:0

...THEN I GUESS THAT MEANS IT SHOULD BE EASY FOR ME TO CATCH UP WITH THEM.

ARE THE PEOPLE ON THE LOWER LEVELS GOING TO BE OKAY?

IF THESE PUZZLES GET HARDER THE LOWER YOU GO...

28 △ ▽ 47

00:00:03

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Technically, the mathematical symbol for "less than" is not a sideways triangle, but this was just supposed to be similar. Incidentally, regarding mathematical symbols that look like triangles, △ represents triangles (such as △ ABC), but ▽ represents gradient vectors (such as ▽f).

B200/500

Casino Hall Floor

...

I'M NOT GOOD WITH RECREATIONAL PLACES LIKE THIS.

SHOULD I UTILIZE SPEEDRUN STRATS AND MOVE AHEAD QUICKLY...

...OR SIT MY BUTT DOWN AND WAIT FOR TAYLITAN AND YUKAKO?

B50/500
Planetarium Floor

I SUPPOSE THAT RULE MAKES SENSE FOR A ROGUELIKE WITHOUT A SAVE FUNCTION.

...BUT IF I DO THAT, I'LL HAVE TO START AGAIN FROM THE GROUND FLOOR.

I CAN QUIT THE GAME WHENEVER I WANT BY TAKING OFF THE GLASSES...

B150/500
Aquarium Floor

FOR THE TIME BEING, I GUESS I'LL HEAD TOWARD YOU-KNOW-WHO ON B175...

YOU CAN'T MOVE BACK UP TO A FLOOR YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH.

B99/500
Overnight Train
Floor

I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL I DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES.

SEEMS LIKE THERE ARE A LOT OF HIDDEN RULES.

B26/500
Library Floor

MEANING THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR THOSE WHO COME AFTERWARD.

FLOORS RESET ONCE THEY'RE CLEARED.

B44/500
Mahjong Parlor
Floor

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A GAME WITHOUT BUGS, AFTER ALL.

FIRST I THINK I'LL LOOK FOR SOME SHORTCUTS.

Cipher Academy Floor 4

AV Room (Real)

I HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED, LORD NOHIME.

I WOULDN'T WANT TO PLAY A GAME THAT COULD KILL ME.

SNAP

Class 1-D leading private

Seppun Zakuroguchi

...SEPPUN-SAN?

A GAME CAN GO MANY WAYS DEPENDING ON THE UNIQUE TRAITS OF THE PLAYER.

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY THIS ONE...

Person in charge of designing the glasses weapons

Kogoe Horagatoge

YOUR EYE WAS DESTROYED...

...AFTER YOU PLAYED THE PROTOTYPE FOR THIS ROGUELIKE, CORRECT?

TEE HEE.

OH YES, I SUPPOSE THAT DID HAPPEN.

Member of the clan who founded Cipher Academy (contributor to the Cipher Academy Metaverse Project)

Iesuno Nohime

...THEY WILL ONLY SUFFER AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF DAMAGE *IN THEIR MINDS.*

EVEN IF A PLAYER DOES EXPLODE AND DIE WITHIN THE GAME...

THANKS TO DR. KOGOE, THERE IS NO LONGER ANY RISK OF DEATH IN THAT CYBERBRAIN WORLD.

HOWEVER, THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST NOW.

WHERE'D HE GO?

HM?

...

THAT'S WHAT WE PEASANTS CALL...

...A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH.

Q.109

LEVEL.★★★☆☆

0,6 ▶◀ 7/12

00:00: 10

10^{52} ▶◀ 10^{60}

00:00: 10

e ▶◀ π

00:00: 10

4M ▶◀ 8Kn

00:00: 10

98F° ▶◀ 89℃

00:00: 10

…

THINGS KEEP GETTING HARDER AND HARDER, AND THERE'S NO END IN SIGHT!

OH NO...

ANOTHER ONE!!

1017 mb ▷ 954 hPa

00:00:10

!

...BUT I CAN'T KEEP DOING THIS FOREVER!

I'M MANAGING TO SURVIVE SOMEHOW THANKS TO MY NORMAL CLASSES...

Instructor in charge of class 1-F (Math)
Cardano Kyurenkan

Instructor in charge of class 1-C (Science)
Junko Ikusu

"MB" IS... MEGABYTES?

"HPA" IS HECTOPASCAL...

DO THEY HAVE SENSORS THAT CAN DETECT HUMANS? OR ARE THERE PRESSURE PLATES?!

EVERY TIME I REACH A FORK IN THE ROAD, THERE'S AN UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE BLOCKING MY WAY... AND SIMPLY GETTING CLOSE IS ENOUGH TO ACTIVATE THEM!

NYA HA HA!

AS USUAL, YOUR REACTIONS ARE WONDERFUL, IROHAZAKA-CHAN!

KO...

GAH!

BANG!

YUP!

KOSHIBAI-SAN?!

IT'S CLASS 1-A'S GOOF-OFF, SHITSUKE KOSHIBAAAAI!

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THE GROUND FLOOR?

I'M PRETTY SURE YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO START...

...ON BIII!

KLIK

...SO YOU JUST NEED TO COMPARE THE NUMBERS THEM-SELVES.

IT'S THE OLD TERM THAT WAS USED TO REFER TO HPA...

ALSO, THE "MB" HERE MEANS MILLI-BARS.

...AND RESTARTED.

...SO I TOOK OFF MY GLASSES WEAPON AS SOON AS WE BEGAN...

I LIKE TO START AT THE VERY BEGINNING WHEN I PLAY GAMES...

AND ALL YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IS HOW TO HAVE FUN?!

EVEN KOGOE SAID WE'D BE RISKING OUR LIVES HERE!

WHY WOULD YOU THROW AWAY A 100-PLUS FLOOR ADVANTAGE?!

WAIT, HOLD ON!

OH...

NAH.

...THAT YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE WITH THE 50 BILLION MORGUE, RIGHT?!

EVEN YOU HAVE YOUR OWN DREAM...

THAT'S ALWAYS THE REASON I DO THINGS!

BUT DOESN'T IT SOUND KINDA FUN?

...

AH! YOU CAN'T MOVE AHEAD SO CARELESSLY!

THE MORE CODES YOU SOLVE ON THIS FLOOR, THE HARDER THEY GET...

I'M BEING CAREFUL ALL RIGHT...

NYA HA HA! YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY!

I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE MONEY.

ENJOYING THIS LIFE-OR-DEATH GAME ITSELF IS HEAVEN FOR ME.

...ARE ACTUALLY ARROWS SHOWING YOU WHICH WAY TO GO.

YOU RAN INTO A NEW UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE EVERY TIME YOU TURNED A CORNER, RIGHT?

IN OTHER WORDS, THE "GREATER THAN" AND "LESS THAN" MATH SYMBOLS...

1017 mb

954 hPa

WHICH IS ALSO A CODE ITSELF... BUT STILL!

I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED AS MUCH FROM KOSHIBAI.

SHE'S DOING A METALEVEL READING INTO THE GAME DESIGN.

STRICT ...?

WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DOES THAT MEAN THEY'LL BE PLAYING TOGETHER FROM HERE ON OUT?

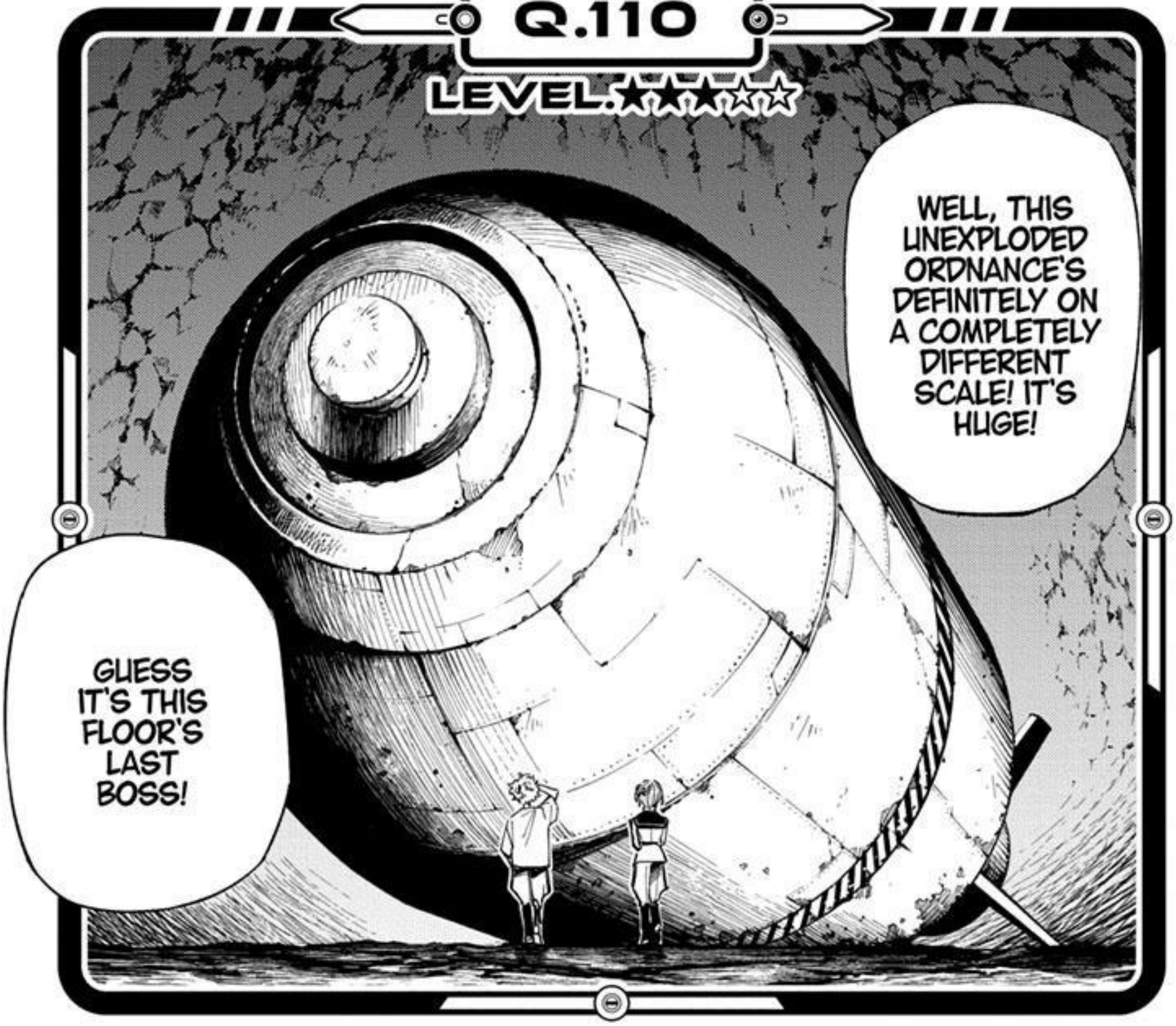
SEEMS LIKE HER HAPPY-GO-LUCKY PERSONALITY WON'T MESH VERY WELL WITH OUR STRICT GRADE-WIDE LEADER'S THOUGH...

I SEE... SO IF A PLAYER WHO DEPARTED LATER MEETS WITH A PLAYER WHO DEPARTED EARLIER...

...THEIR FLOORS WILL BE UNIFIED INTO THE FLOOR OF THE PLAYER WHO DEPARTED EARLIER.

Q.110

LEVEL.★★★☆☆


WELL, THIS UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE'S DEFINITELY ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SCALE! IT'S HUGE!
GUESS IT'S THIS FLOOR'S LAST BOSS!


...
ALL RIGHTY NOW, WHERE'S THE CODE PANEL...?
ONCE WE DISMANTLE THIS ONE, THE EXIT TO THE NEXT FLOOR SHOULD POOF INTO EXISTENCE.

W-WAIT, KOSHIBAI-SAN!

?

THIS ISN'T THE LAST BOSS!

THERE'S NO WAY TO USE A BOMB SO HUGE THAT A ROCKET CAN'T EVEN CARRY IT!

THAT MUST MEAN IT'S AN EMPTY FAKE.

THE TRUE LAST BOSS IS PROBABLY LURKING IN ITS MASSIVE SHADOW...

Q.111

LEVEL.★★★★☆

00:55:52

X = □

A TINY BOMB ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SCALE!

LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT TOO MUCH OF A GAMER'S MENTALITY...

EXCELLENT WORK. WHAT WAS I THINKING, CALLING IT THE LAST BOSS JUST BECAUSE IT WAS HUGE?

BUT HEY, IROHAZAKA-CHAN...

...YOU'RE ALLOWED TO ENJOY THINGS A LITTLE TOO, YOU KNOW?

!

SINCE I DON'T HAVE MY OWN DREAM...

...I CAN *SERIOUSLY* SUPPORT YOURS.

...I WILL END...

...ALL WARS IN THE WORLD.

I DON'T THINK...

BUT IF IT WERE ME...

...I SHOULD BE LOOKING TO HAVE FUN HELPING PEOPLE.

I WOULDN'T WANT SOMEONE TO HELP ME...

...WHILE THEY LOOKED AND ACTED BORED. ♫

SO...

...HERE'S THE CODE WE NEED TO SOLVE...

...MS. GOOF-OFF.

OKAY.

I'LL LEARN FROM YOU...

AND THEN ON TOP OF THAT, THERE'S THIS THING...

HM? OH, THAT'S—

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

IT'S ASKING US TO COUNT THE NUMBER OF X'S THAT APPEAR WHEN LINING UP THE ARROWS THAT WE SAW ALONG THE PATH, RIGHT?

IN OTHER WORDS, I THINK THE ANSWER IS "X = 2."

NEE HEE HEE!

WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE IROHA'S—

...WHY DOES IROHAZAKA-KUN SEEM TO HAVE HIS OWN UNIQUE OPINION ABOUT UNEXPLODED ORDNANCES?

I WOULD LIKE TO REVISE WHAT I SAID. A GAMER AND A DAYDREAMING REALIST...

...ARE A GOOD COMBINATION WHEN IT COMES TO *VIRTUAL REALITY*, BUT...

B1

BAAANG!

KLATTER カラン

HUHHH?

To be continued!



Chapter 44:

MINE HAS BEEN A LIFE OF MUCH WAR

CIPHER ACADEMY

Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation: Dan Luffey Lettering: Steve Outro

GLASSES WEAPONS PROVIDE USERS WITH REAL (WAR) EXPERIENCES.

THERE☆FORE... IF YOU DIE FROM AN EXPLOSION WITHIN THE METAVERSE...

...YOU'LL BE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE WHAT IT'S ACTUALLY LIKE TO DIE FROM AN EXPLOSION IN REAL LIFE (INSIDE YOUR HEAD)!

BAM

WHOAAA!

IT WENT JUST HOW YOU SAID IT WOULD, KOSHIBAI-SAN. YOU REALLY SAVED US.

NAH... ♫ ON THE CONTRARY, THIS WRETCHED SCENE PLAYED OUT JUST AS YOU SAID IT WOULD, IROHAZAKA-CHAN. ♫

GOOD POINT!

WILL THE COUNTDOWN STOP ONCE WE INPUT THE ANSWER, JUST LIKE THE OTHER ONES?

OR WILL THE OPPOSITE HAPPEN, AND WILL THE DETONATION TIMER GO OFF?

OKAY, SO THE ANSWER TO THE CODE IS X = 2.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU THINK IN ADDITION TO THAT, KOSHIBAI-SAN?

...BUT THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR GAME DESIGN.

IT'S A HARD-AND-FAST RULE OF PLAY-WRITING...

00:5 1:49

X = □

1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9
DEL 0 OK

IF THERE'S A GUN ON THE STAGE, IT MUST BE FIRED.

IT'S LIKE CHEKHOV'S GUN PRINCIPLE...

...AND CLEAN UP THAT SUBPLOT AS WELL.

I'D WANT TO GIVE THIS GIANT BOMB MORE MEANING BEYOND ITS STATE AS A DUD...

IF I WAS OPERATING THE DIGITAL CIPHER ACADEMY...

...I'D WANT TO ADD AT LEAST ONE REALLY BIG EXPLOSION.

SUCH MEAN-SPIRITED GAME DESIGN! PURE BLISS! ♫

BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT'D ACTUALLY BE A BOMB-SHAPED *BOMB SHELTER.*

WHAT'S WRONG, IROHA-ZAKA-CHAN?

MY GAMER'S MENTALITY IS TELLING ME THAT THIS BIG HOLE THE EXPLOSION OPENED UP...

...IS THE ENTRANCE TO B2.

YEAH.

LET'S GO!

ONCE WE INPUT THE ANSWER, THE COUNTDOWN STARTED FROM TEN SECONDS JUST LIKE THE OTHER ONES...

...BUT WE WERE ABLE TO FIND A HIDDEN DOOR IN THE HUGE BOMB, JUST AS WE THOUGHT.

IT ISN'T REALLY MEAN-SPIRITED... IT'S MORE SATIRE, IF ANYTHING.

FOR TEAM "SHIBA-IROHA"...

...FLOOR BI...

...WAS SIMPLY ELEMENTARY! PURE BLISS!

WHAT THEY DID GAVE ME SHIVERS. AND NOT JUST BECAUSE MY NAME'S KOGOE.

THEY MAY BE A BIT OF A WILD DUO...

...BUT AT THIS RATE, I DON'T THINK WE'LL NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THEM FOR A WHILE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS HAS ONLY DEEPENED MY SUSPICIONS.

WHY HAS GRADE-WIDE LEADER IROHAZAKA...

...FORMED HIS OWN OPINION ON HOW EXPLOSIVES WORK?

ABOUT 3,000 YEN.
I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
11 SECONDS FLAT.
I HAVE AN EXPLOSIVES HANDLING LICENSE.
I DO NOT.
IF I WAS FORCED TO SAY, GYM AND MUSIC.
EVERYTHING OTHER THAN GYM AND MUSIC.
IT WASN'T GOOD.

THAT'S RIGHT. I NEVER ANSWERED YOUR QUESTION, SEPPUN-SAN.

WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE IROHA...

...CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, BUT...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Chekhov's Gun is just one kind of playwriting method and not an absolute rule, but it does serve as a basis for reading the meta of something. Incidentally, Koshibai's blackout glasses weapon that I gave to her gets a capricious person like her interested in codes, but as Dekiai-chan said, it can't be used in the metaverse.

...A LICENSE TO HANDLE EXPLOSIVES?

YOU HAVE...

Cipher Academy Metaverse B2/500

Motor Pool Floor

IT'S NOT RECOGNIZED IN JAPAN, THOUGH.

YEAH, I HAVE A LICENSE FOR THAT KIND OF STUFF.

YEAH.

AS YOU MIGHT HAVE ALREADY GUESSED ...

OH!

DOES THAT MEAN YOU GOT LICENSED OVERSEAS?

BUT WHY— ER!

...IT'S SOMETHING I WAS FORCED TO LEARN...

KLINK
カチャ

KLINK
カチャ

...WHILE I WAS IMPRISONED OVERSEAS BY THE REBELS.

...SUCH A HARSH ENVIRON-MENT.

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING TO BE FORCED ON A CHEER-LEADER.

IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO SURVIVE...

HEH HEH...

DIS-MANTLING BOMBS...

...ISN'T THAT HARSH OF A JOB.

THEY TAUGHT ME A LOT OF OTHER THINGS TOO...

...BUT THE MAIN THING WAS HOW TO DEAL WITH BOMBS.

SEEMS LIKE THEY WANTED TO TURN ME INTO A TRAP DODGER WHO WOULDN'T RAISE ANY RED FLAGS.

...WHILE THE BOYS FROM THE CHEERLEADING CLUB WERE TORTURED TO DEATH IN FRONT OF ME...

COMPARED TO BEING FORCED TO CHEER...

SO I FAILED ON PURPOSE...

...AND TRIED TO BLOW MYSELF UP.

...I THINK I JUST WANTED TO DIE.

OR MAYBE NOT.

ONCE THEY WERE FINISHED WITH THE CHEERLEADING CLUB...

MAKKO
MBITIOUS
KREAK...

I CAME TO CHEER YOU ON...

...CUTIE!

Amvicious Yonakiuguisu

Makko Academy Middle School captain of the cheerleading club (at the time)

PLEASE LEAVE, CAPTAIN.

I'VE ALREADY LOST THE RIGHT...

CLICK

カチャ

...TO DANCE IN FRONT OF PEOPLE AND CHEER THEM ON.

OH...

I'M SURE YOU'VE SUFFERED MORE...

...THAN I CAN IMAGINE, IROHA...

YANK

...BUT IN THAT CASE, CHEERING ON THE BASEBALL CLUB FOR AN ENTIRE SUMMER SHOULD BE A CINCH FOR YOU.

LET'S GO HOME AND DANCE TOGETHER!

...

OKAY, CAPTAIN!

...WHO CAN LIFT ME UP!

PLEASE! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...

B3/500
Freezer Floor

WHAT YOU SAID MADE ME REMEMBER THAT...

...AMVICIOUS YONAKIUGUISU ...

B4/500
Kendo Dojo
Floor

100 BATTLE

...WAS SOMEONE WHO ALWAYS SEEMED TO ENJOY CHEERING PEOPLE ON.

B5/500
Engine Room
Floor

B9/500

B8/500

IT WAS ALWAYS JUST A GIVEN THAT AMVICIOUS WAS THE LEADER.

B7/500

B6/500

AMVICIOUS NEVER LISTENED TO ME OR UNDERSTOOD HOW I FELT.

...I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF BECOMING, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

AND THAT'S THE KIND OF LEADER...

B10/500
Ballroom Floor

AHHH! EN-CHAN!

IRO-IRO!

KOSHIBAI-SAN!

SWIP

HEH HEH!

I WAS KIND OF EXPECTING YOU, BUT...

DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE WAITING FOR US?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE CAUGHT UP TO YOU...

GRP

?

I'M GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO MEET UP WITH YOU, THOUGH!

I HOPE WE CAN SAFELY MEET UP WITH EVERYONE ELSE TOO!

...I STOPPED ...

...FOCUSING ON *ONLY* BOOSTING MY SPEED.

KLATTER

Pass Line

Field

Pass Line

NAH, I WANT A CODE BATTLE.

WHOEVER LOSES GETS BANNED FROM THE DIGITAL CIPHER ACADEMY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT RULE?

Tayu Yugata
Oldest member of the Toshusai faction

IT APPEARS THAT *GROUP LEADER* TOSHUSAI'S ALREADY GONE ON AHEAD...

WHY DON'T WE ENACT A TEMPORARY CEASE-FIRE HERE AND TRY TO CATCH UP WITH HER...

...TAYUTAN?

Shitai Kubinashi
Ex-Kyora group (undercover operations agent)

WHOEVER LOSES GETS ETERNALLY EXILED FROM CIPHER ACADEMY *ITSELF.*

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

B200/500 Casino Hall Floor

HEH HEH... YOU'RE ALWAYS SO LISTLESS, YET YOU'RE RARING TO FIGHT AGAINST ME.

I'M GLAD.

WHY NOT JUST GO WITH THIS RULE, THEN?

THIS IS WHAT IROHA-ZAKA-KUN WOULD SAY...

SOUNDS ELEMENTARY. A WAR OF EXILE.

ACTU-ALLY, HE'D NEVER SAY THAT...

NO, PROBABLY NOT...

...ALLOW ME TO DETERMINE THE TYPE OF GAME.

SO BE IT! THEN, AS IS CUSTOMARY...

Q.112

LEVEL.★★★★★

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY... IT'S SOMETHING A MASTER OF WORDS LIKE YOU WILL EXCEL IN.

I CALL IT...

...ENDLESS CRAPS!

To be continued!

ENDLESS CRAPS!

IF YOU LOSE, YOU'LL BE ETERNALLY EXILED FROM CIPHER ACADEMY.

YOU NEEDN'T BE SO WARY. THIS GAME...

HEH... DON'T WORRY. ALL WE'LL BE USING IS A TABLE AND DICE.

WE'RE WHOLESOME JAPANESE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

HOW COULD WE POSSIBLY KNOW THE RULES FOR CRAPS?

B44/500
Mahjong Parlor Floor

...WAS DEVISED BY BYU HANAGOROMO, CLASS E'S EMBODIMENT OF CONSCIENCE...

...AS WELL AS ITS PARTY-GAME MAKER.

B200/500

Casino Hall Floor

TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, IT'S A GAME WHERE THE PARTICIPANTS LINK WORDS.

ONE TAKES THE LAST SYLLABLE OF THE PREVIOUS WORD...

...AND USES IT TO CREATE A NEW WORD... AND SO ON.

CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 45: BECOME THE FIGHT, NOT THE MUZZLE

THAT'S RIGHT. THE JAPANESE WORD GAME— SHIRITORI.

AND IF YOU'RE A WHOLESOME JAPANESE HIGH SCHOOLER, THEN IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO NOT KNOW HOW TO PLAY THAT GAME.

ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING YOU'RE THE OLDEST MEMBER OF THE TOSHUSAI FACTION.

...

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S...

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

YOU CAN TAKE AS MANY SYLLABLES AS YOU WANT.

HOWEVER, IN THIS GAME OF SHIRITORI, YOU WON'T LOSE IF YOU USE A WORD THAT ENDS WITH "N."

YOU ALSO DON'T HAVE TO LIMIT YOURSELF TO THE LAST SYLLABLE OF THE WORD.

AS AN EXTREME EXAMPLE, I COULD ALSO TAKE EVERY SYLLABLE YOU USED...

...AND CONNECT IT TO "MIKAN JUICE."

Mikan
↓↓
Kantai Heiyou Partnership

Mikan
↓↓↓
Mikan Juice

FOR EXAMPLE, THE WORD "MIKAN." (ORANGE)

I COULD CONNECT THAT TO "KANTAI HEIYOU PARTNERSHIP." (TRANSPACIFIC PARTNERSHIP)

SURE. CONTINUE.

I'M ON THE EDGE OF MY SEAT WAITING TO HEAR ABOUT HOW THE DICE ARE USED.

ARE YOU WITH ME SO FAR...

...MISS WORD MASTER?

"TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP," ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD BE A WHOPPING 16 POINTS.

WITH THE EXAMPLE I JUST USED, "MIKAN" WOULD EQUAL THREE POINTS...

...WHILE THE "MIKAN JUICE" COUNTER WOULD EQUAL SEVEN.

THAT BRINGS US TO THE POINT SYSTEM.

HEH... AND SO, IF THE SYLLABLE "N" DOESN'T END THE GAME, THEN WHAT DOES?

...BUT OF COURSE, THERE'S A FIXED LIMITATION.

WITH THAT IN MIND, YOU MIGHT THINK IT'D BE BEST TO USE THE LONGEST WORDS POSSIBLE...

D6, D12, AND D20...

YOU CAN ROLL WHATEVER DIE YOU WANT...

...BUT YOU CAN ONLY USE A WORD WITH A TOTAL AMOUNT OF SYLLABLES EQUAL TO TO THE END SYLLABLE PLUS THE NUMBER THAT COMES UP ON THE DICE.

IF YOU SIMPLY WANT TO EARN POINTS, YOU SHOULD ROLL THE D20...

...BUT YOU'D BETTER HOPE YOU DON'T ACTUALLY ROLL A 20.

CALCU-LATING IT BACKWARD, IF YOU ROLLED A FOUR WITH ANY OF THE DICE...

"TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP" HAS OVER 14 SYLLABLES, THOUGH...

...THEN YOU'D BE ABLE TO USE "MIKAN JUICE" SINCE IT'S OVER FOUR SYLLABLES IN JAPANESE.

...SO IT'D REQUIRE A ROLL OF 14 WITH THE DANGEROUS D20.

ARE YOU FINE WITH THIS? THEY'RE IN THE SYSTEM...

...YET THEY'RE HAVING AN *OUTSIDE* BATTLE.

THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN PLANNED FOR.

NOW IT TRULY FEELS LIKE AN MMO...

YEAH. I'M DEEPLY INTRIGUED BY THIS NO MATTER WHICH WAY IT ENDS UP ROLLING...

THIS IS CRAPS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, AFTER ALL.

THOSE'RE DIFFICULT RULES.

!

THIS WILL ALSO FULFILL YOUR DESIRE TO *HOLD ME BACK*, CORRECT?

EVEN IF YOU END UP LOSING...

WE'LL KEEP GOING UNTIL SOMEONE ELSE REACHES THIS FLOOR.

I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO PLAY WHILE HAVING TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE CLOCK, AFTER ALL.

IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO BEAT YOU WITHOUT HURTING YOU...

UNDER THESE RULES, I MEAN.

Encounter Event!

*Shitai Kubinashi

*Tayu Yugata

Endless Craps!

B15/500

Music Game Floor

YOU PLAYED VERBAL SLIP CUT BY HALF QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION...

...WITH YUGATA-SAN A BIT AGO, RIGHT?

BADOOM

THAT REMINDS ME, KOSHIBAI-SAN...

BADAM

NYA HA HA!

BADAM

BADOOM

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DARED TO PLAY SUCH A RECKLESS GAME LIKE THAT...

STOMP

STOMP

STO-WOMP

THE RECKLESS PART IS WHAT MAKES IT FUN!

Byu Hanagoromo's One Point Lesson

The only other additional details are that players are not allowed to use the same word twice (but homonyms are allowed) and things that would delay the game are also prohibited, I think. Any cipher soldier should be able to answer within ten seconds. And since it's a party game, you can play with as many players as you want.

LET'S JUST KICK BACK AND HAVE SOME FUN.

OF COURSE, IN THE END, THIS IS JUST ANOTHER GAME OF SHIRITORI.

...THE RULES DICTATE THAT THE FIRST PLAYER'S FIRST MOVE...

...WILL START WITHOUT A PREVIOUS END SYLLABLE AND WILL ONLY BE BASED ON THE NUMBER ON THE DICE.

OF COURSE, IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE FAIRNESS...

HEH... LOOKS LIKE I GO FIRST.



ASIDE FROM TOSHUSAI-SAN?

A WEAK-NESS?

...I KNOW SHE'S GOT A WEAKNESS THAT MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE POSSESS.

BAM

AND AS THE PERSON WHO PLAYED HER DURING THE MURDER MYSTERY...

Oya-fukou.

*Undutiful to one's parents

+5 points

OF COURSE SHE'S GOING TO TRY AND VIOLATE ONE'S PRIVACY.

SHE'S FROM CLASS E, THE UNDER-COVER OPERATIONS CLASS, AFTER ALL.

WHAT A JERRRRK!

WHA...

TAYLITAN ISN'T FALLING FOR THE TAUNT...

NO, ZAKURO-GUCHI-SAN...

...AS IF IT'S THE MOST NATURAL THING IN THE WORLD.

TAYU YUGATA ISN'T ONE TO STAND FOR THAT SORT OF THING, THOUGH.

LOOK! SHE'S ABOUT TO ROLL THE D20...

...BY USING THE D6 OR D12.

SHE'S ACKNOWL-EDGING THE FACT THAT SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO WIN...

!!

THAT'S STRANGE...

BUT DICE SIMPLY OPERATE ON PROBABILITY JUST LIKE CARDS, RIGHT?

BASICALLY, YUGATA-SAN HAS A DIRE LACK OF LUCK.

BEEP

IF SHE'D PARTICIPATED IN LEAKY POKER...

...SHE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE HAD NO HAND FOR THE ENTIRE GAME. THAT'S THE KIND OF LUCK SHE'S GOT.

YOU REALLY THINK SO? YOU NEVER NOTICED ANY TRENDS...

...IN YOUR CODE BATTLES WITH YUGATA-CHAN?

BEEP

ALTHOUGH, IN MY EXHIBITION MATCH WITH HER...

...I WASN'T ABLE TO PULL THAT GENIUS LEVEL OF BAD LUCK OUT TOO WELL.

"MUST BE NICE TO BE SO LUCKY."

...

...I'M SURE SHE'D NEVER SUFFER TOO MUCH FROM BEING SO UNLUCKY.

B200

AS LONG AS SHE DOESN'T DO SOME SORT OF CODE BATTLE THAT WOULD SERIOUSLY EXILE HER FROM CIPHER ACADEMY...

[Ura] girimono

*Traitor

2 syllables + 4 syllables = 6 points

Total: 11 points

I THINK I'LL BE CAREFUL AND USE THE D6, THEN...

OH, A FOUR. IN THAT CASE...

[Kou]ra

*Shell

2 syllables + 1 syllable = 3 points

...

1 [Hire] tsu *Base

2 [Mame] bito *Serious person

3 [Tsu] rumame *Wild soy-bean

1 [Do]a *Door

2 [I] tari *Arrival

3 [A] kusei *Misrule

4 [Ri] poguramu *Lipogram

2 [Tsu] kumo *Less than 100

3 [Daiji] uunou *Charcoal-fire shovel

4 [Mo] ndaiji *Problem child

5 [Unou] hankyuu *Right brain hemisphere

1 [Gyuu] ho *Slow pace

3 [Ku] tabire *Fatigue

5 [Ho] omushikku *Homesick

6 [Mu] kichoueki *Life imprisonment

1 [Tari]ki *Outside help

2 [Ueki] bachi *Flowerpot

3 [Bachi] atari *Sinful

3 [Ken] atsuki *Pressure gauge

5 [Gi] gokujiken *Bribery scandal

3 [Akki] rasetsu *Fiend

2 [Mono] gusa *Laziness

2 [En] nichi *Festival day

3 [Kusa] reen *Relationship one can't get out of

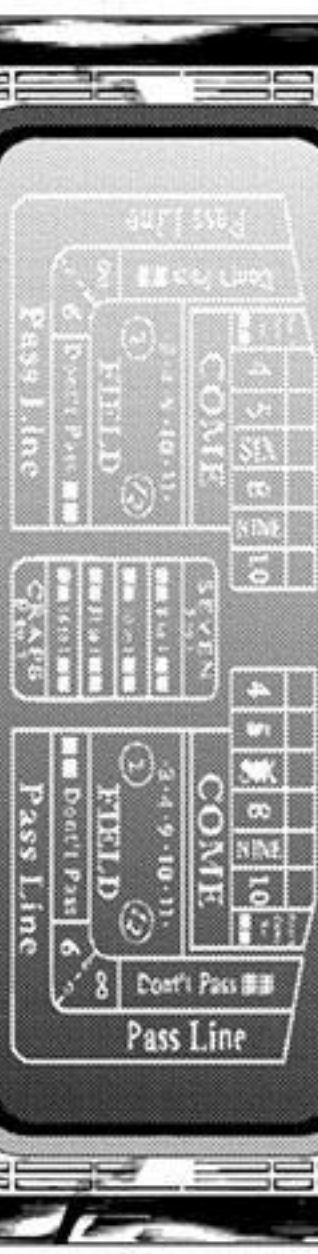
1 [I]mu *Different dream

5 [Chi] uugishin *Sense of loyalty

2 [Shin] nuri *Final coat of black paint when painting teaware

5 [Ri] nrikitei *Ethical code







THIS IS AMAZING IN A DIFFERENT WAY!

SHE ROLLED THE D20 15 TIMES...

...BUT NEVER GOT ANY NUMBER HIGHER THAN FIVE!

MEANWHILE, IT SEEMS LIKE KUBINASHI ISN'T SIMPLY...

...ROLLING THE D6 IN ORDER TO PLAY IT SAFE.

SHE JUST WANTS TO KEEP SPELLING OUT KEY WORDS TO CHIP AWAY AT HER OPPONENT'S HEART!

A PLAYING STYLE THAT ALMOST MAKES IT SEEM LIKE SHE'S TRYING TO STEAL THE TITLE OF "TRAUMA PRODUCER"!

NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE TAYU YUGATA IN SUCH A TIGHT SPOT.

AFTER ALL, *SHE'S THE ONE* WHO'S BEEN DESCENDING AT MACH SPEED...

...SINCE BIHO...

AM I REALLY GOING TO LOSE HERE WITHOUT ANY SORT OF COUNTERMEASURE?

SIMPLY BECAUSE OF BAD LUCK?

THAT ONE HURT...

...SHITAI.

ARE YOU SUSPECTING THAT I TAMPERED WITH THE DICE?

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D WANT TO FORGET ABOUT IROHAZAKA-KUN ENTICING YOU, THOUGH.

DON'T FORGET THAT WE'RE IN VIRTUAL REALITY HERE.

...JUST HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO IROHAZAKA-KUN FOR ENTICING ME.

YOU'RE THE ONE PERSON...

...WHO I THOUGHT WOULD UNDER-STAND...

YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG.

IT'S PRECISELY IN PLACES LIKE THIS...

I SEE. YES, IN CRAPS IT'S NATURAL TO ROLL MULTIPLE DICE AT ONCE!

THIS WAY, EVEN IF EACH INDIVIDUAL NUMBER IS SMALL, THE TOTAL SHOULD BE—

THREE DICE AT ONCE...?

!

THAT'S THE TRUE NATURE OF TAYUTA-UN.

...THAT TAYUTAN'S PLANS BACKFIRE.

DONK

*Note: "Un" = luck

...THE WORDS SHE NEEDS TO CREATE USING THE END OF THE LAST WORD HAS TO BE AT LEAST 31 SYLLABLES!

A TOTAL OF 30... MEANING...

...REAR.

...FROM RIPURO-GRAMU'S...

I'LL TAKE THE "MU"...

DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUM-STANCES, WE MIGHT NOT HAVE TO GO AS FAR AS EXILING YOU—

I'M NOT A DEMON, THOUGH...

LOOKS LIKE THAT'S THE GAME.

MURASAME NO TSUYU MO MADA HINU MAKI NO HA NI

KIRITACHINOBORU AKI NO YUUGURE

*This is a poem from *Hyakunin Isshu*, a classical Japanese poetry anthology: "The rain shower has passed, but the dew has yet to dry, while white mist rises up around the pine leaves on this autumn evening."

NO, NO, NO!

EXCUSING THE FACT THAT YOU ROLLED MULTIPLE DICE AT ONCE...

...YOU SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN CONFIRMATION AHEAD OF TIME BEFORE YOU DECIDED TO USE AN ENTIRE POEM IN A GAME OF SHIRITORI!

HYA-KUNIN ISSHU!

THAT'S THE "MU" FROM "MUSUME-FUSAHOSE"!

NO COMPLAINTS HERE! SO 5-7-5-7-7 MAKES FOR A TOTAL OF 31 SYLLABLES!

CIPHER ACADEMY

YONAKI-UGUISU-SAN!

YES. I'M CLASS I-C'S LEADING PRIVATE...

...YONAKI-UGUISU INVALIDES!

LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS GETTING CONFIRMA-TION...

...THE WHOLE TIME.

FROM THE START, SHE'S ONLY USED...

...A, U, KI, KU, SA, TA, CHI, TSU, NI, NU, NO, HA, HI, HO, MA, MU, ME, MO, YU, RA, RI, RU, RE.

IN OTHER WORDS...

...ONLY THE 23 SYLLABLES THAT APPEAR IN THAT POEM.

ENDLESS

Kubinashi

総梨

夕方

Yugata

Oyafukou
Uragirimono
Kusareen
Chuugishin
Rinrikitei
Mukichoueki
Bachiatari
Gigokujiken

Akkirasetsu
Mondaiji
Unouhankyuu
Hoomushikku
Hiretsu
Mamebito
Akusei
Ripoguramu

Tsukumo
Daijuunou
Gyuuho
Kutabire
Tsurumame
Doa
Itari
Murasameno...

Koura
Monogusa
Ennichi
Shinnuri
Imu
Uekibachi
Tariki
Kenatsuki

I DON'T WANT TO SEE A FRIEND OF MINE GET INTO AN ARGUMENT.

"I'LL BE RECITING THAT POEM LATER."

IF IT WERE ME, I'D INTERPRET THAT CODE LIKE THIS...

EVEN THE SCORE ENDED UP EXACTLY THE WAY YOU WANTED IT TO, I ASSUME?

CLAP CLAP

IT SEEMS THE ONE WHO TRULY WORKED BAD LUCK AND PLANNED BACKFIRING INTO THEIR STRATEGY...

...WAS NOT ME, BUT YOU.



...SO THAT I WOULDN'T HURT YOU.

ENDLESS CRAPS

夕方 ターン16

Yugata – Turn 16

1字+30字=31pt

1 syllable + 30 syllables = 31 points

total score

縊梨 88 – 88 夕方

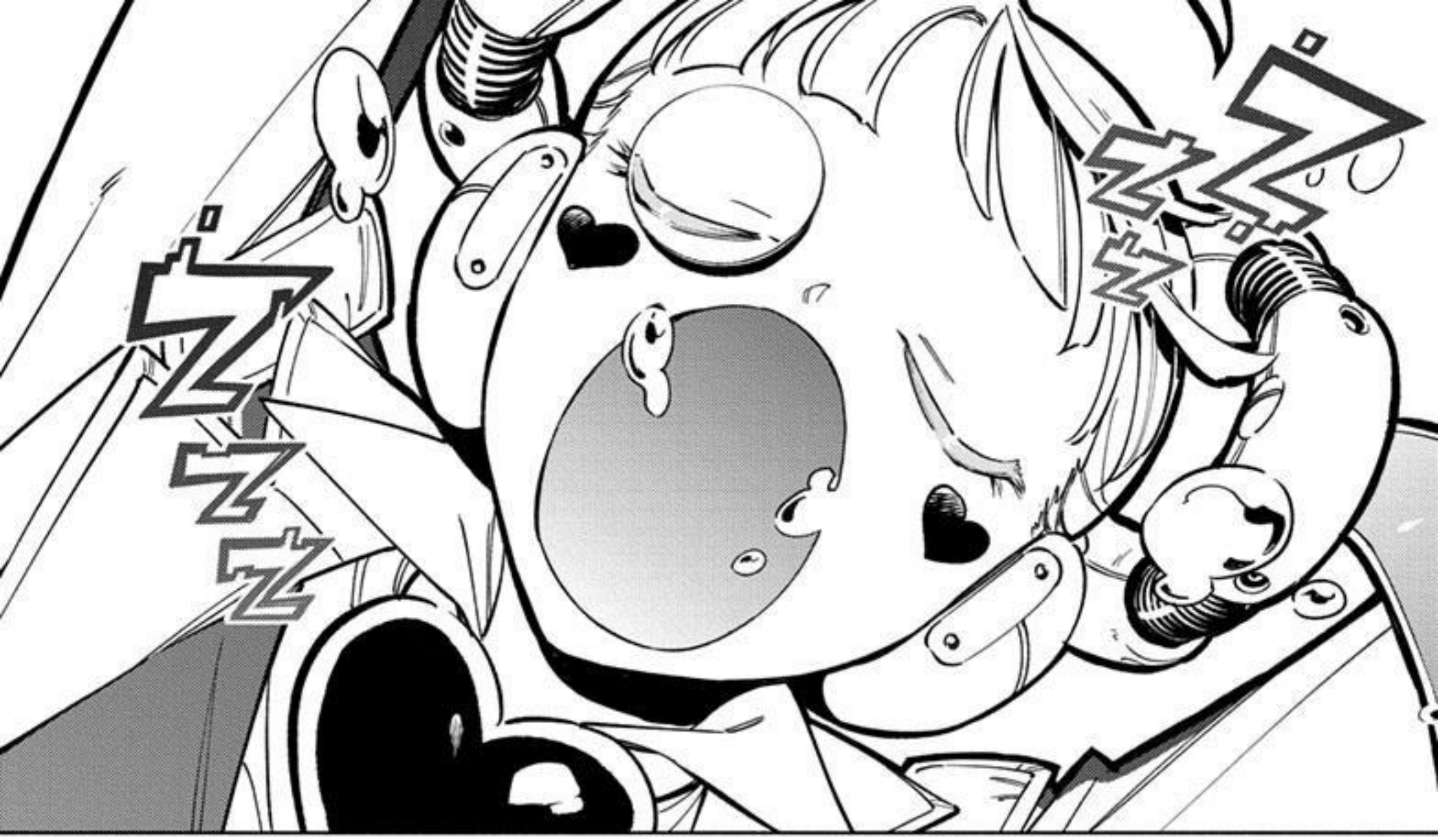
Kubinashi Yugata

OH NO.

I JUST MADE THE RULES KINDER...

VERBAL SLIP CUT BY HALF ENDLESS CRAPS!

To be continued!




DON'T SAY ANY-THING RUDE!
DEKIAI-CHAN WASN'T IN SLEEP MODE OR ANYTHING!
BWAP
PLEASE WAKE UP, DEKIAI-CHAN!


SOMEONE HAS ILLEGALLY ACCESSED THE CIPHER ACADEMY METAVERSE.
DEAL WITH THIS AT ONCE.

CIPHER ACADEMY

B19/500

Bouldering Floor

Chapter 46: THE DESIRE TO KILL COMES FROM TALKING, BUT THAT'S BETTER THAN TALKING

Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki

Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Outro

IT'S GOOD TO SEE NEITHER OF THEM ENDED UP DROPPING OUT THIS EARLY IN THE GAME.

LOOKS LIKE YUGATA AND KUBINASHI ARE CONTINUING ALONG WITH YONAKIUGUISU NOW.

!

NO, ZAKURO-GUCHI-SAN.

...AND THEN SHE EVEN MANAGED TO STOP THAT POINTLESS CODE BATTLE.

SHE PLUMMETED STRAIGHT DOWN FROM B140 TO B200...

IN THAT REGARD, INVA'S THE MVP SO FAR.

...

HUH? THAT'S STRANGE.

...DESPITE STARTING FROM B13.

IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SPEED ALONE, THERE'S SOMEONE FASTER THAN HER...

SOMEONE WHO JUST REACHED B101...

B102/500
Greenhouse Floor

...WHY HASN'T SHE ENCOUNTERED ANYONE?

IF SHE'S BEEN MOVING THAT FAST...

PERHAPS THIS IS A CODE THAT INVOLVES FLOWER LANGUAGE?

TOK TOK

FLOWERS FROM MULTIPLE SEASONS...

EITHER WAY, I'LL JUST KEEP...

...HELPING MYSELF TO THE SHORTCUTS...

Class 1-F
Player
Namo
Nakigara

?!

FZZZ

ILLEGAL PLAYER SIGHTED.

SNIP

ELIMINATING NOW.

Dekiai-chan Patrol Mode

SHUNK

...

ANONYMITY REQUESTED!

SHE WORE A MASK ON TOP OF HER MASK?!

SNAP...

Nakig

ass 1-F
ayer
mo
ara

THE DUNGEONS ARE CREATED BASED ON EACH PLAYER'S GRADES...

...BUT ONCE THE PERSONAL DATA WAS ERASED, YOU SLIPPED IN LIKE A GHOST.

"ANYTHING GOES" INDEED.

I BELIEVE SHE DISGUISED HERSELF AS A CLASS F STUDENT...

...BECAUSE SHE MADE SOME SORT OF BACKDOOR DEAL WITH THEM...

...WHEN SHE GOT CAPTURED DURING THE *TRILEMMA*.

THERE'S JUST NO HELPING THAT BEAUTY NOW, IS THERE?

CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY THOUGH...

BEING A GENIUS AND ALL, I MADE PREPARA-TIONS...

...JUST IN CASE SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED.

WAIT, DEKIAI-CHAN!

I'LL VOUCH FOR HER!

ROKAKU YOSAI-MURA!

WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?!

RUSTILE

FOR ME, THAT IS.

PERFECT.

YOU REJECTED IROHA'S INVITE?

I HOPE YOU'LL ACCEPT THEM THIS TIME, YOSAIMURA-**SAN.**

...USING MY OWN POCKET MONEY (PLUS A LOAN) THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH KICK-ATTACK PLANNING OR THE NOHIME FAMILY.

HERE ARE THE ADDITIONAL GLASSES I MADE FOR YOU...

I NEED TO GO VISIT MY BIG BROTHER'S GRAVE, YOU KNOW.

BESIDES, I'LL BE BUSY OVER SUMMER BREAK.

HA HA HA... SPECIAL TREATMENT ISN'T FAIR.

I SALVAGED...

...GOKAKU YOSAIMURA'S BONES...

...FROM THE UNSINKABLE AIR GRAVEYARD USING A CONNEC-TION FROM CLASS D.

OF COURSE, IT'S A MEMENTO THAT WOULD MEAN NOTHING IN MY HANDS...

...SO I WOULDN'T MIND MAKING AN EXCEPTION AND GIVING THE BONES TO YOU.

THIS IS A PROBLEM. I'VE NEVER REALLY GOTTEN ANGRY BEFORE...

...SO I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HOLD BACK.

THERE'S A RIGHT WAY TO ASK PEOPLE TO DO THINGS, ISN'T THERE...

...HORAGA-SAN?

I'M WORRIED ABOUT IROHA AND KYORA-SAN.

I WANT YOU TO SUPPORT THEM FROM THE SHADOWS.

PLEASE.

...ON BEHALF OF YOUR TWISTED FRIEND-SHIP.

I'LL ACCEPT THIS SECRET MISSION...

WELL SAID.

QUITE A LINE TO HEAR FROM THE MASTER-MIND.

I ALSO HAVE A FRIEND...

...I CAN'T IGNORE.

ANONYMITY-SAN IS A CIPHER SOLDIER WHO COULD HAVE STARTED FROM BIOO WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING ILLEGAL.

I CAN VOUCH FOR THAT AS SOMEONE WHO FOUGHT DESPERATELY AGAINST HER DURING THE CLASS LEADING PRIVATE TOURNAMENT.

WOULDN'T IT BE A WASTE TO BAN HER WITHOUT LISTENING TO HER ARGUMENT?

TRUE! CAN'T LET A TALENT LIKE HERS GO TO WASTE!

BUT DURING THE TOURNAMENT ...

...SHE ONLY MANAGED TO MAKE IT TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP DUE TO HER "ANYTHING GOES" MINDSET, CORRECT?

THEREFORE, IN ORDER TO SEE WHETHER SHE'S REALLY LEADING PRIVATE LEVEL OR NOT, I'LL NEED TO ASK HER SOME QUESTIONS!

FOR EXAMPLE ...

Q.113

LEVEL.★★★★☆

CAN SHE SOLVE THE FINAL CODE OF THIS FLOOR...

...THAT'S BEEN SET UP IN THAT FLOWER BED OVER THERE?







...DEKIAI-CHAN?

AND YOU SAID "FLOWER BED," RIGHT...

LOOKING AT IT FROM AFAR... NO, EVEN IF I WAS CLOSER, IT'S HARD TO FIGURE ANY-THING OUT SINCE EVERY-THING'S ALL GREEN.

BUT ON FURTHER INSPECTION, IT SEEMS LIKE THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF LEAVES.

IS IT NOT A TIMED CODE BASED ON *MUNJADO*?

IN OTHER WORDS, THE MESSAGE SHOULD POP UP WHEN THE FLOWERS BLOOM.

*NOTE: MUNJADO IS A TYPE OF ART WHERE KANJI CHARACTERS ARE SUPERIMPOSED WITH IMAGES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

AND SO, THE FLOWERS BLOOM! AND I HEREBY ALLOW YOU TO TRANSFER INTO THE CIPHER ACADEMY METAVERSE!

ポーン POOF

CORRRRRECT! YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING!

*In the flower bed above, 認識 means "recognition." The rest of the answer is in English ("in").

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT, YOSAIMURA.

YOU KNOW HOW I AM. I'M NOT GONNA THANK YOU...

I'M NOT GONNA APOLOGIZE FOR VERBALLY ABUSING YOU, EITHER.

I'M NOT GONNA THANK YOU, IROHAZAKA.

PLEASE! JUST HAVE MERCY ALREADY!

I LIKE YOU TOO, OKAY?!

WHICH WILL ALSO CUT YOUR REAL-LIFE BRAIN IN TWO.

SO BE CAREFUL AND HAVE FUN!

HOWEVER, IF YOU BREAK THE RULES AGAIN, I'LL CUT YOU IN TWO WITHOUT MERCY!

THROB きゅん

DON'T MENTION IT.

BESIDES, I'VE BEEN TAKING SHORT-CUTS AS WELL.

?

OF COURSE I'M KIDDING! I'LL THANK YOU FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE! SERIOUSLY, THANKS!

SORRY FOR BEING SUCH A JERK DURING LEAKY POKER TOO!

NO MATTER WHAT SORT OF BACKDOOR DEAL YOU'VE MADE...

...IT'LL HELP TO HAVE A FRIEND IN CLASS F...

...DUE TO HOW ENIGMATIC THEY ARE.

OKAY, LET'S GO, ANONYMITY-SAN.

THE FASTEST WAY TO PROTECT EVERYONE'S BRAINS...

...WILL BE FOR US TO CLEAR THIS WHOLE THING.

RUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴ

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

You can make this code harder by using the same plant (like tulips or something) instead of flowers of different colors. That would definitely turn it into a code that no one would be able to solve until they bloom, but on the other hand, once they bloom, anyone would be able to solve it... As long as you don't slack off in taking care of the flowers, that is!

ANONYMITY REQUESTED AND ROKAKU YOSAIMURA!

A STRAIGHT SHOOTER AND A CHEATER JOIN FORCES...

...TO FORM TEAM *HOPE AND FORTRESS!*

*The "Yosai" in Yosaimura means fortress, and the literal meaning of Anonymity Requested's name from Japanese to English is "Anonymity Hoped For."

MEANWHILE, GRADE-WIDE LEADER IROHAZAKA'S GROUP...

...HAS REACHED B44, THE *YOU-KNOW-WHAT* FLOOR.

A COMBO WITH A VERY INTERESTING COLOR HAS JUST BLOOMED.

I SUPPOSE GETTING IN THAT SITUATION WHERE I ALMOST CRIED WAS WORTH IT AFTER ALL.

Can't say this too loudly though. (Seriously.)

THOSE TWO ARE TEAMING UP AGAIN!

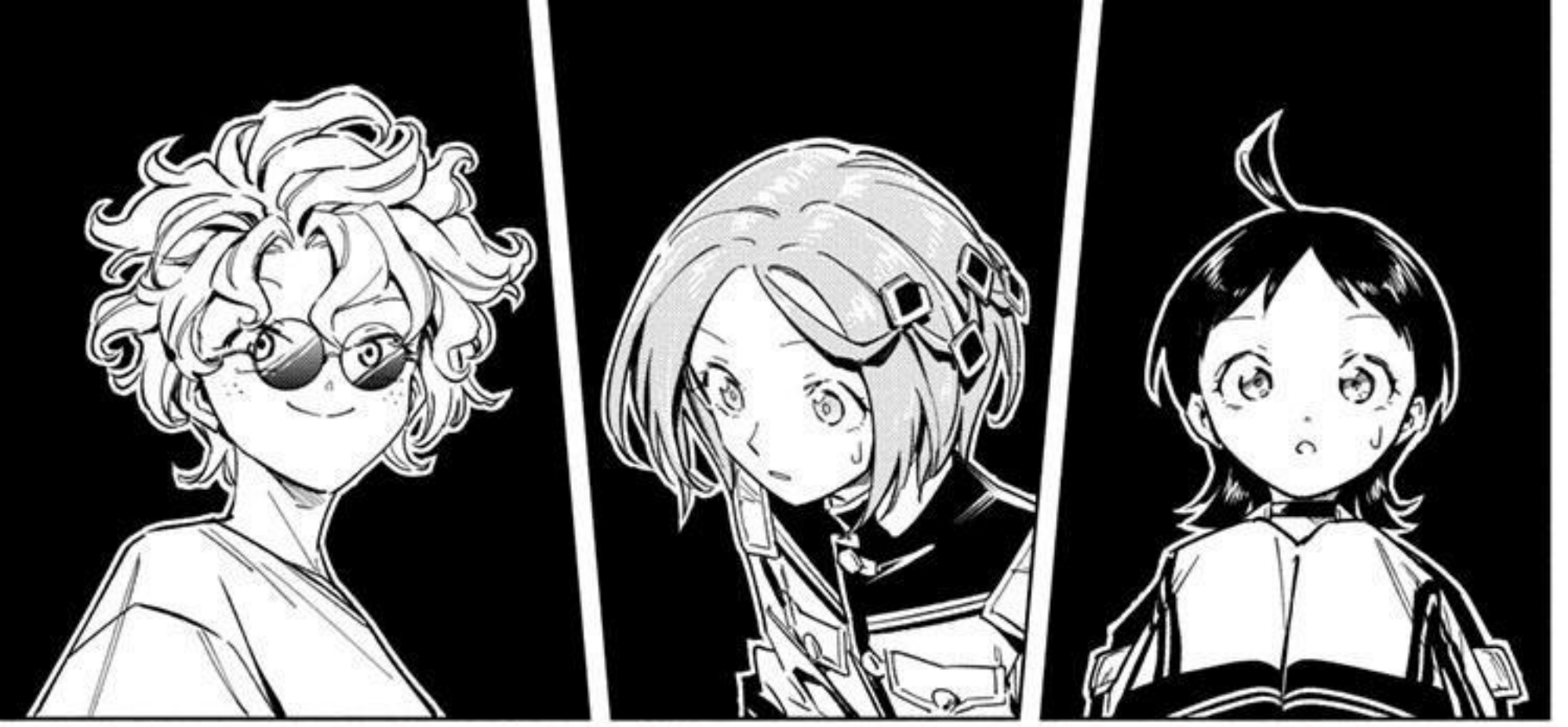
OOOH. SO WE GET TO SEE *THAT* ONCE MORE, HUH?

Mahjong Parlor Floor B44/500

FORCED ENCOUNTER MISSION...

...MARSHAL MAHJONG!

To be continued!





Chapter 47:

SOMETIMES EVEN A KAPPA GETS HIT BY STRAY BULLETS





Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

B44/500
Mahjong
Parlor Floor

ONLY THE WINNER GETS TO GO ON AHEAD.

ON THIS FLOOR, YOU HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE RIGHT NUMBER OF PLAYERS ARRIVE.

WHEN THREE OR FOUR PEOPLE ARE PRESENT, THEN YOU CAN SIT AT THE TABLE TO PLAY.







THIS'LL BE ELEMENTARY!

AS LONG AS SOMONE ADVANCES, THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO ENDS UP WINNING—IT'LL STILL BE A WIN FOR ALL OF US!

THUD

UNFORTUNATELY, YOU CAN'T PLAY MAHJONG WITH FIVE PLAYERS.

WHAT ARE YOU TWO GOING TO DO?

TELL US THE RULES FIRST.

THE RULES FOR...

...MARSHAL MAHJONG, THAT IS.

OKAY. IN MARSHAL MAHJONG, WE USE TILES LIKE THESE.

ro 口

ha 波

THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT TYPES— HIRAGANA, KATAKANA, AND KANJI.

THERE ARE 45 DIFFERENT TILES FOR EACH TYPE, FROM THE JAPANESE SYLLABLES "A" TO "N"...

わ	ら	や	ま	は	な	た	さ	か	あ
	り		み	ひ	に	ち	し	き	い
	る	ゆ	む	ふ	ぬ	つ	す	く	う
	れ		め	へ	ね	て	せ	け	え
ん	ろ	よ	も	ほ	の	と	そ	こ	お

...FOR A TOTAL OF 135...

wa 和	ra 良	ya 也	ma 末	ha 波	na 奈	ta 太	sa 左	ka 加	a 安
	ri 利		mi 美	hi 比	ni 仁	chi 知	shi 之	ki 幾	i 以
	ru 留	yu 由	mu 武	hu 不	nu 奴	tsu 川	su 寸	ku 久	u 宇
	re 礼		me 女	he 部	ne 祢	te 天	se 世	ke 計	e 衣
n 无	ro 呂	yo 与	mo 毛	ho 保	no 乃	to 止	so 曽	ko 己	o 於

ワ	ラ	ヤ	マ	ハ	ナ	タ	サ	カ	ア
	リ		ミ	ヒ	ニ	チ	シ	キ	イ
	ル	ユ	ム	フ	ヌ	ツ	ス	ク	ウ
	レ		メ	ヘ	ネ	テ	セ	ケ	エ
ン	ロ	ヨ	モ	ホ	ノ	ト	ソ	コ	オ

*Note: All three tables in this panel present syllables in order of phonetic pronunciation.

MARSHAL MAHJONG IS PLAYED WITH THESE 136 TILES.

WITH ME SO FAR, KOSHIBAI-SAN?

SWP

ha 波

...PLUS ONE EXTRA.

ONE ALMIGHTY TILE, OR "HAKU" IN TRADITIONAL MAHJONG TERMS, THAT CAN BE USED AS ANY SYLLABLE FROM ANY TYPE.

KOSHIBAI-SAN!

This is deplorable.

THESE RULES WOULD BOTHER OTAMA-CHAN. I BET SHE'D HAVE SOME FRANK AND CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM.

NYA HA HA! THAT WAS EASY TO UNDERSTAND, THANKS!

SO IT'S MAHJONG THAT'S PLAYED WITH SYLLABLES INSTEAD OF NUMBERS...

GRRP

...GO FIRST?

CAN I...

WHIRRRRR

Iroha Irohazaka vs. Kakune Karigane

VS. VS. VS.

Ensa Kasuri vs. Byu Hanagoromo

SCHK

スッチャッ

LET MARSHAL MAHJONG BEGIN!

LEVEL. ★★★★★★

Q. 114

fu フ shi 之 me 女 nu ぬ ne ネ ya 也 to と tsu 川 ru ル su ス hi ひ se セ ha ハ

FWIP スッ

Dora
Ro (hiragana)
Ro (katakana)
Ro (kanji)

East
Round 1
Dealer:
Irohazaka

SCHK カチャ

TOK トン

East Corner	◆	Irohazaka 30,000
South Corner	∞	Karigane 30,000
West Corner	𓅃	Kasuri 30,000
North Corner	⊕	Hanagoromo 30,000

*Dora is when one han, a unit used to keep score in mahjong, is granted to players who possess the next tile in the sequence.

IN OTHER WORDS, I NEED TO MAKE WORDS WITH THREE SYLLABLES LIKE THIS...

...FROM A TOTAL OF 14 TILES, RIGHT?

UH... I THINK IN MAHJONG, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO MAKE FOUR MELDS OF THREE TILES EACH...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

This chapter definitely needs explaining, but I'll be careful not to be too loquacious. Marshal mahjong is played under *tonpusen* rules, where the game ends after the east round and everyone is only allowed to be the dealer once. Players start with 30,000 points, and the final tallies are made assuming they started with that much (there are no rankings). Each dora counts as one han, and this bonus is applied to the next syllable for all three types. If only the same type of tile got the dora bonus, it would mean there'd be one bonus tile, so it was done this way to balance the game.

YOU CAN'T PLACE A TILE SIDEWAYS AND TURN A "KU" INTO A "HE" SYMBOL, OKAY?

HUH?! HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS GOING TO DO THAT?!

...AND GET RID OF THE TILES I DON'T NEED!

TOK

nu

THOSE TWO ARE CALLED THE *JANTOU*.

IN MARSHAL MAHJONG, THEY'RE A SPECIAL PAIR WHERE ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS COLLECT THE SAME SYLLABLE ACROSS TWO DIFFERENT TYPES.

の ノ no no

? ? にまい ni ma i アマリ a ma ri 安 太 来 そろえ so ro e

BUT IF THEY'RE TO MAKE FOUR MELDS OF THREE TILES USING 14 TILES, WON'T THAT LEAVE THEM WITH TWO LEFT OVER?

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE IROHA STILL DOESN'T HAVE THE MENTAL COMPOSURE TO THINK ABOUT THAT...

IT'S A GAME WHERE YOU NEED TO TRY AND *GET A HIGH SCORE*.

...AS THEY TRY TO COMPLETE THEIR MELDS...

SO A TYPICAL 3-3-3-3-2 STRUCTURE...

...WHERE PLAYERS PLAY THE GAME BY DRAWING AND DISCARDING TILES...

Seventh turn

TOK トン

I'M AT TENPAI (I THINK).

I'LL JUST WAIT AND SEE HOW THINGS GO FOR THE TIME BEING...

I ASSUME THAT ONLY PINFU, STANDARD MELDS WORTH ONE HAN, ARE ALLOWED.

TOK トン

NOW, THE ONLY QUESTION IS...WILL THEY BE DRAWN, OR WILL SOMEONE DISCARD THEM...?

(Makoto) *Sincerity

(Kotou) *Solitary Island

NOW I JUST NEED TO ATTACH SOMETHING TO THESE TWO TILES LIKE THIS, AND I'LL HAVE MY FOUR MELDS!

(Itoko) *Cousin

(Tokoro) *Place

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Unlike verbal slip cut by half question-and-answer session, voiced consonants, p-sounds, double consonants, and contracted sounds cannot be used. Also, getting to a point where you only need one more tile to win is called *tenpai*, which is the source for the Japanese verb *tenparu* (panic). Iroha got to tenpai without making any declarations, even though he could have declared *riichi*, but...

I COULD HAVE DONE THAT WAIT PATTERN TOO!

ko こ
su す
to と

(Kosuto) *Cost

AH... OH NO!

su す

TOK トン

TOK トン

mu む
bu ぶ
ri り

WHY ISN'T IROHAZAKA-KUN TRYING TO GO OUT?

BECAUSE THAT WAIT PATTERN WOULD HAVE MADE HIS PINFU DISAPPEAR.

GOTTA HAVE MELDS TO GO OUT IN MAHJONG!

...I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S REACHED TENPAI.

FROM WHAT I CAN SEE...

ra ら
hi ひ

TOK トン

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SWITCH IT OUT WITH A DORA DRAW!

SHOULD I DECLARE RIICHI NOW? NO...

IT'S STILL THE SAME TURN. SO I CAN'T GO OUT!

KOTORI (SMALL BIRD), BUT!

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

He missed the chance to draw a winning tile that would have gone in the middle of one meld, so he wouldn't have been able to go out even if the "ri" had appeared, which could have been slipped onto the side of a meld during the same turn. Since each tile is unique in marshal mahjong, furiten rules prohibiting players with tenpai from declaring a win based on a discard don't apply, but the rules do prohibit players from doing so on the same turn. By "dora draw," Iroha meant something like "ha ya i" to "i ro ha."

*Ron is declared when a person can go out based on a discard.

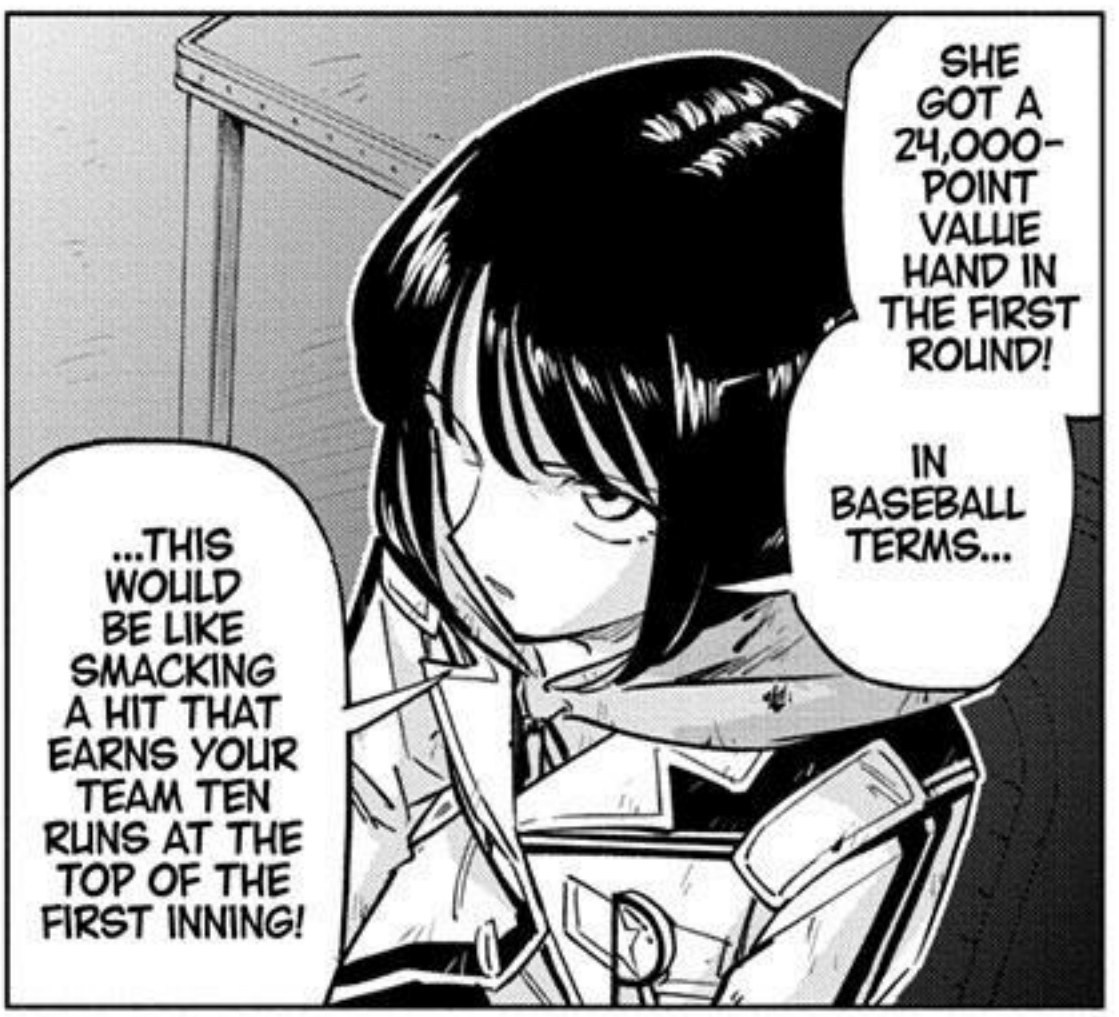
RON.

CHAK

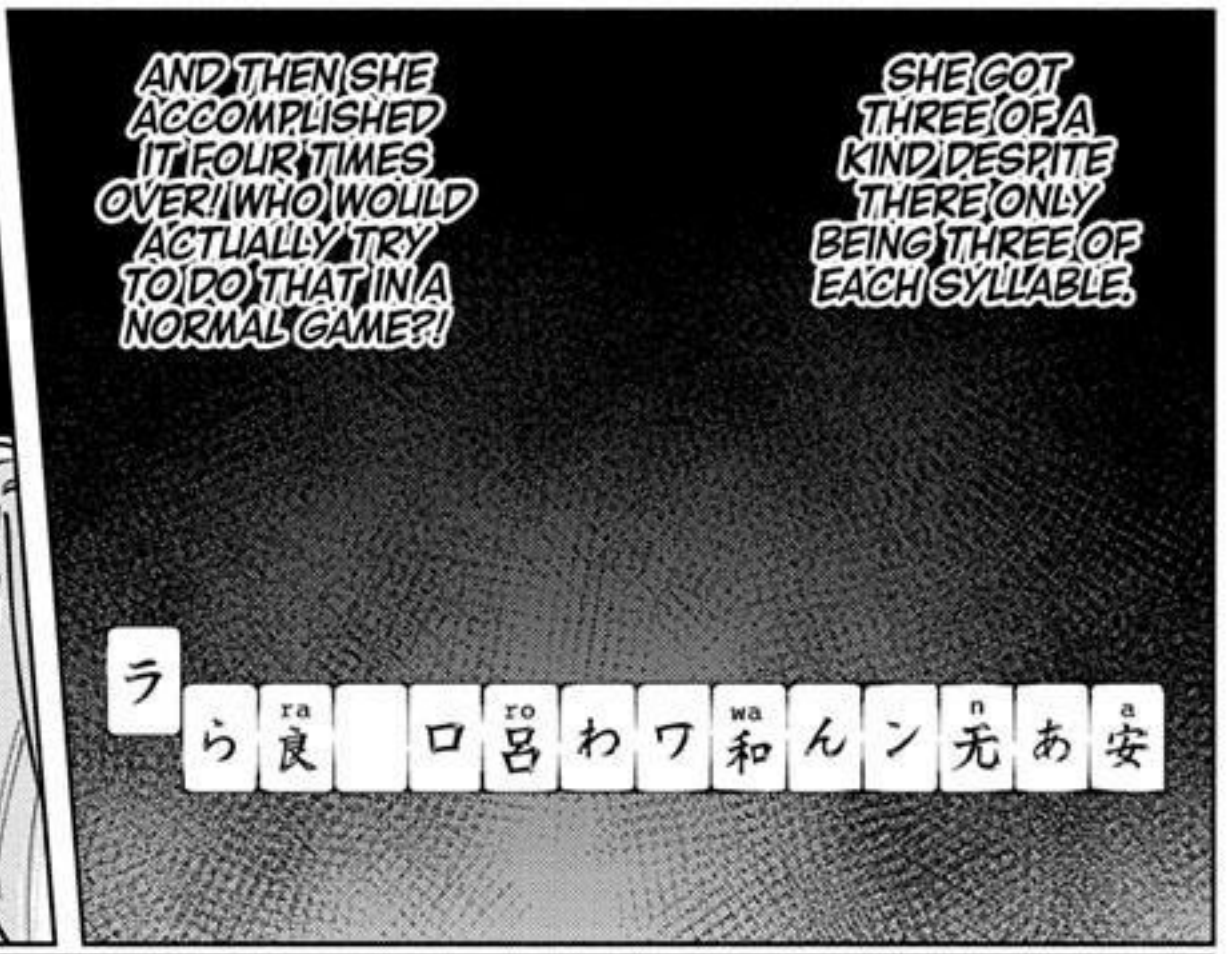
THAT'S 24,000 POINTS.











Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

In Japanese mahjong terms, this hand would be described as *toitoi* (triplets), *sanankou* (three concealed triplets), *honroutou* (only honoreds and terminals), *sanrenkou* (three consecutive triplets) for the "ro," "wa," "n," and a dora three (using the almighty as a "ro"). Thus, she earned the nondealer score of 24,000. In normal mahjong, getting a "straight" of three numbers such as 2-3-4 or 3-4-5 is called a *shuntsu*, while getting three of a kind such as 2-2-2 or 5-5-5 is called *koutsu*. The "a," "o," and "n" syllables are treated as *hashipai* (terminal) tiles, while the *haku* (white dragon), even though it's an almighty, is treated as a *sangenpai* (honored) tile.

...HIS OPPONENT'S EXPRES-SION?

DID IRO-IRO REALLY MISREAD ...

Irohazaka
6,000 points

BE CAREFUL, IROHAZAKA-KUN...

ONCE YOU HIT ZERO POINTS, IT'S OVER.

Karigane
54,000 points

IF YOU COME IN FOURTH PLACE...

...YOU'LL BE *BANNED* FROM THE METAVERSE FOR ONE YEAR.

?!

I SENT THEM HOME WITHOUT A SCRATCH ON THEIR BODIES, OF COURSE.

TOGENANA-FUSHIGI-SAN, AEN-SAN, AND MENGATA-SUZUME-SAN.

ガタ RATTLE

HUH?! THEN...

...WHAT HAPPENED TO THE STUDENTS WHO CAME HERE BEFORE WE DID?!

"IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO ENDS UP WINNING. IT'LL STILL BE A WIN FOR ALL OF US!"

THAT'S A WONDERFUL THOUGHT INDEED...

...BUT MY PHILOSOPHY IS A BIT DIFFERENT.

AND ACCORDING TO MY RESEARCH, A STUDENT WITH THAT NAME SEEMS NEVER TO HAVE EXISTED IN THE FIRST PLACE...

INCIDENTALLY, NAKIGARA-SAN NEVER ARRIVED HERE.

TH-THEN THE REASON YOU JOINED THE EXPEDITION ...

...WAS TO SEND EVERYONE HOME SAFELY?

WHETHER IT'S A WAR OR A LABYRINTH...

...AS LONG AS YOU CAN MAKE IT HOME ALIVE, YOU'VE WON.

...

I SUPPOSE YOU COULD PUT IT THAT WAY.

AFTER ALL, YOU *HAVE THE ABILITY TO GET BANNED* ON THIS FLOOR. IT'S SPECIAL!

IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO CATCH EARLY FLOOR STARTERS AND THOSE WHO FAILED ON DEEPER FLOORS BUT DON'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT...

...AND SAFELY SEND THEM BACK FROM WHENCE THEY CAME.

...AND SKIPPED OVER TWO TILES THAT COULD HAVE LET YOU WIN THE GAME.

THAT'S RIGHT. JUST LIKE HOW YOU REFUSED TO DECLARE RIICHI...

...REFUSING TO LEAVE THE FLOOR EVEN IF YOU WIN?

YOU MEAN THIS WHOLE TIME, YOU'VE BEEN HERE STANDING IN THE WAY...

...OF CIPHER SOLDIERS WHO LACK SKILL...

SHE COMPLETELY READ IRO-IRO'S HAND!

SHE ISN'T BLUFFING HERE...

...

HER ABILITY TO SURVIVE IS EVEN GREATER THAN MINE...!

SHE'S THE SAME AS ME... NO.

...WAS ABLE TO DODGE IRO-IRO'S READ.

THAT'S HOW KARIGANE-SAN...

RON.

THAT'S 24,000

WHAT IS THIS MASTER DETECTIVE 'ACTUALLY SEEING?!

RELAX. ONCE I SEND THE FOUR OF YOU HOME...

...I'LL CLEAR THE DUNGEON FOR YOU ALL.

THE FOUR OF US?

YEP! SHE'S BEEN BLOCKING ME THIS WHOLE TIME TOO...

SORRY IF IT LOOKED LIKE WE WERE TEAMING UP. MIND HELPING ME OUT?

HEH HEH...

I WAS CONVINCED THAT YOU WERE A *FANATIC*...

NO NEED TO THANK ME.

...BUT I GUESS YOU WENT EASY ON ME DURING THE MURDER MYSTERY.

East Corner
Round 2
Dealer
Karigane

48,000-point lead

YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME THOUGH.

WHIRRRRR

ウィ!!

THANKS.

SCHK

スッチャッ

To be continued!

...I CAN READ HANDS. LITERALLY.

JUST LIKE HOW IROHAZAKA-KUN CAN READ EXPRESSIONS...

Marshal Mahjong
East Corner
Round 2
Dealer Karigane

CIPHER ACADEMY

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Outro

Chapter 48: ONE WHO IS SKILLED IN BOTH ACTIONS AND DESTRUCTION

OR PERHAPS EVEN MORE.

...THE HANDS SPEAK TO ME JUST AS MUCH AS THE MOUTH.

SHF

TOK

...THROUGH FINGER MOVEMENTS, FLICKS OF THE WRISTS, ANGLES OF THE JOINTS, NAIL COLOR, GRIP STRENGTH, AND FINGER AND PALM PRINTS...

EVEN IF NOTHING IS EXPOSED...

ha ハ
ne ネ
ru ル
shi 之
tsu 川

!

TOK

nu

...THAT'S AS BAD AS SWITCHING OUT A WILD CARD!

HE'S DISCARDING AN ALMIGHTY?! NO WAY!

IN POKER TERMS...

...ALTHOUGH THE HAKU TILES ARE ALMIGHTIES, THEY'RE ONLY TREATED THE SAME AS HONORED (SANGENPAI) TILES...

INDEED... AFTER ALL, IN MARSHAL MAHJONG...

...BY DISCARDING AN ALMIGHTY...

THAT'S NOT TRUE. I CAN THINK OF ONE MELD A PERSON CAN MAKE...

SHOULD I DECLARE SOMETHING? NO...

IF HE COMBINES JUNCHAN (3 HAN) WITH OTHER MELDS, THAT COULD BE A PROBLEM...

...WHICH AREN'T NEEDED FOR THE JUNCHAN MELD!

CHI! YEAH, YOU HEARD ME...

DORA!

TOK

I SHOULD MAKE HIM DECLARE SOME-THING...

TOK

...

A DECLARATION A PLAYER CAN MAKE WHEN THEY WANT TO TAKE A TILE THAT ANOTHER PLAYER HAS DISCARDED AND ADD IT TO THEIR HAND.

FOR A STRAIGHT OF THREE NUMBERS (SHUNTSU), YOU SAY "CHI," AND FOR A THREE OF A KIND (KOUTSU), YOU SAY "PON." THEN AFTER MAKING THE DECLARATION, YOU HAVE TO REVEAL THE MELD YOU WANT TO ADD THE TILE TO.

WHAT'S "CHI"?

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

In normal mahjong, *junchan* refers to a hand with melds that only contain tiles 1 through 9. In marshal mahjong, that corresponds to tiles composed only of "a" and "o" vowel categories as well as "n." Adding a bit more to Seppun-san's explanation, "chi" cannot be used on the person sitting to your left. The almighty *haku* can be declared as any tile, but I don't recommend cutting down your hand when another player is about to go out.

OKAY.

THAT'S 3,900.

HOW MANY POINTS IS THIS?

TOK

RO...

RON! I DID IT!

JUST LIKE WITH MY ABILITY TO *READ FACES*...

WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF.

NOT MUCH...

◆	Irohazaka	6,000
∞	Karigane	54,000
↯	Kasuri	33,900
⊕	Hanagoromo	26,100

Example of someone who was confused

?

IF SOMEONE DOES SOMETHING CONFUSING, YOU ACTUALLY GET CONFUSED.

...YOU CAN'T NECESSARILY READ EVERYTHING.

mo 毛 ne ね mi 𠂉 te 天 se セ chi 口 fu フ

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Breaking down En-chan's hand, she had *tanyao* with two dora, which equals 30 fu and three han for 3,900 points. Her first *shuntsu* meld was the one that she declared with *ukeru* (receive), while her second was *fuseru* (conceal), which could also be rearranged into *serufu* (self). Her third was *shikumi* (construction). She also had a three-of-a-kind meld with "i." She didn't get many points, but since there are no han attributed to specific tiles in marshal mahjong, it's hard to earn points based on draws alone.

FWIP

UH...

OKAY!

KARIGANE-SAN'S LOOKING AT OUR *HANDS*!

PULL YOUR SLEEVES DOWN TO YOUR FINGERTIPS, EN-CHAN!

WHEN I SARCASTICALLY SAID "BUT I GUESS YOU WENT EASY ON ME DURING THE MURDER MYSTERY"...

...YOU CHANGED THE SUBJECT BY SAYING "YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME, THOUGH."

THAT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D NORMALLY SAY.

DID YOU WASTE A PRECIOUS ROUND JUST TO CONFIRM THAT?

ALL YOU NEEDED TO DO WAS ASK, AND I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.

BY THE WAY, HOW DID YOU FIGURE IT OUT?

SO I USED SOME CHEAP TRICKS TO TEST THINGS OUT.

LIKE HAPHAZARDLY LINING MY TILES UP, PLACING THEM WITH MY LEFT HAND, AND RUBBING TILES BEFORE DRAWING AS IF I COULD SENSE WHAT THEY WERE.

BUT I ONLY *CONFIRMED* MY SUSPICIONS JUST NOW, WHEN YOU ACKNOWLEDGED THEM.

...

HOW SPLENDID.

WHETH-ER IT'S A WAR OR A LABY-RINTH...

...AS LONG AS YOU CAN MAKE IT HOME ALIVE, YOU'VE WON.

BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE.

A 48,000-POINT LEAD, WITH NO MORE CHANCE TO BE DEALER AND ONLY TWO ROUNDS LEFT...

IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO START HEADING HOME, ISN'T IT?

KLATTR

YOU SHOULD ONLY SAY THAT...

...TO PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY HAVE A HOME TO HEAD BACK TO.

TRUE. PERHAPS I LACKED CONSIDERA-TION THERE. ALLOW ME TO APOLOGIZE.

BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO SHOW YOU ANY MERCY.

I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU.

I WILL TAKE THE LIBERTY OF WINNING HERE.

KLATTR

KLATTR

GUESS THAT MEANS I GET TO SHOW YOU...

...MY TRUMP CARD, THEN.

HEH ふっ

TRUMP CARD...? DOES GRADE-WIDE LEADER IROHAZAKA...

...STILL POSSESS SUCH A THING...?

AND IF HE DID, HE WOULD HAVE ALREADY USED IT IN LEAKY POKER, RIGHT?

HMM... NOT EVEN I CAN SAY FOR SURE.

HARD TO BELIEVE HE'S GOT ANYTHING OTHER THAN HIS ABILITY TO *READ FACES* THOUGH...

...SINCE KARIGANE ENDED UP GIVING HANAGOROMO (7,700).

...EAST CORNER ROUND 3 WENT BY IN A FLASH...

DESPITE IROHA'S CLAIM...

East Round 4 (Last Round)

Dealer Hanagoromo
Dora: Ka, Ka, Ka

Irohazaka	◈	6,000
Karigane	∞	46,300
Kasuri	✦	33,900
Hanagoromo	⊕	33,800

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Feeding (*sashikomi*) is the term used when one player helps another go out. Karigane wants to end the game as fast as possible with the current makeup, and since apparently Hanagoromo's fine with second place, their interests aligned.

HE WANTS TO TAKE ALONG A "SCREW-UP" ON PURPOSE.

HAVING AN IDIOT WHO HOLDS PEOPLE BACK IN THE GROUP ACTUALLY HELPS EVERYONE COME TOGETHER ...

THIS IS ALL BECAUSE I SCOUTED KARIGANE-SAN...

SORRY, IRO-IRO...

KEEP YOUR HEAD UP! LOOK AT ME!

EN-CHAN!

IF I LOSE HERE, THEN YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO...

...CLEAR THE LABYRINTH AND BECOME CODE EMPEROR!

TOK

CHAK

PON!

*Kakan is a declaration made after calling *pon* and drawing a fourth tile to upgrade the meld.

CHI!

KAKAN... PON!

PON!

PON!

I'M NAKED WITH ONLY ONE TILE LEFT!

SUFURO TENPAI...

Sufuro is when you've made four declarations and have only one tile left in your hand that hasn't been revealed. *Tenpai* means you're one tile away from going out.

Chanta is short for *honchantaiyaochuu*, where every tile group and pair contains at least one terminal or honor tile. *Sanrenkou* is three consecutive triplets.

THAT'S 6,400 POINTS.

WHAT'S THAT IN SIMPLE TERMS?

CHANTA SANREN-KOU!

THE NEW DORA DOESN'T COUNT, BUT THAT'S FUHANE!

THE CONDITIONS ARE ALL THERE FOR 50 FU AND THREE HAN!

HAVING A FRIEND TO ENTRUST HIS DREAM TO WAS HIS TRUMP CARD.

I SEE...

33,900
+ 6,400
40,300

IN OTHER WORDS, AS A DIRECT RON HIT ON KARIGANE-SAN...

33,800

...SHE'S JUST BARELY MANAGED TO TURN THE TABLES.

46,300
- 6,400
39,900

6,000

...AND IF ALL FOUR ARE EXPOSED, THEN THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO READ ABOUT HER HAND.

THE COMBINATION OF CHANTA AND SANRENKOU WAS SOMETHING I SHOWED THEM...

I'M STILL MISSING TWO MORE "YO" TILES...

TOK

AND I COULD DODGE A SINGLE UNEXPOSED TILE WITH MY EYES CLOSED...

I ABSOLUTELY ABHOR IT.

SUCH BEAUTIFUL SELF-SACRIFICE...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

"Naked with only one tile left," or *hadakatanki*, is when you declare four times and have one tile unexposed that you need to pair. Exposing melds through declaring is called *furo*. *Kan* can be declared when you get four tiles, adding one displayed dora tile. Since there are only three tiles of each syllable in marshal mahjong, this usually doesn't happen, but it's possible with an almighty haku. *Fuhane* is...well, when you get a bunch of fu points.

RON.

CHK

カチャ

CHK

カチャ

TOK

トン

THAT'S 24,000.

...

...KARIGANE'S LAST WITH 22,300 POINTS!

SHE'S BANNED!

A 24,000-POINT COUNTER!

NOW IROHA'S NOT IN LAST PLACE. AND ACTUALLY...

Irohazaka	30,000
Karigane	22,300
Kasuri	33,900
Hanagoromo	33,800

ne

ALL THE WHILE, YOU ALSO KEPT PUSHING MY TURN BACK BY MAKING DIFFERENT DECLARATIONS...

STAGGER

W-WAIT. I GET IT NOW.

YOU USED KASURI-SAN'S "NAKED WITH ONLY ONE TILE LEFT" AS CAMOUFLAGE TO SNIPE ME, RIGHT?

!

YOU DIDN'T *JUST* READ EXPRES-SIONS THIS TIME, RIGHT?

...AND JUST BY READING EXPRES-SIONS FROM YOUR SIDE ALONE?!

BUT HOW DID YOU PULL OFF SUCH A COMPLICATED PLAN WITHOUT ANY SORT OF MEETING...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

A 24,000-point hand composed of junchan, three melds of the same syllables, and six dora (masaka, masaka, masaka, koko, anoyo). As you can see, he made melds of the same word three times with the exact same syllables. One of the scary parts of marshal mahjong is how easy the dora are to use. Of course, En-chan declared kakan to make it easier for Iroha to use the dora.

IROHAZAKA-KUN, CAN YOU ALSO...

...MAKE PEOPLE READ YOUR EXPRESSIONS AS WELL?

A SURVIVAL ABILITY THAT ALLOWS HIM TO INSTANTLY TRANSMIT PLANS WITHOUT THE FEAR OF BEING MISINTERPRETED...

THAT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE HIS TRUE STRENGTH AS A CIPHER SOLDIER.

...THAT IROHAZAKA-KUN HAS *A LOT OF DIFFERENT FACIAL EXPRESSIONS.*

NO... BUT I DID HEAR FROM TAYUTAN...

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS, NOHIME-SAN?

RATTLE ガヤ

Yeah. I guess he wouldn't want to use that during Leaky Poker...

IF YOU WATCH THAT VIDEO...

...YOU MAY BE ABLE TO EXTRAPOLATE DIFFERENT INTEL FROM ME.

THE *BATTLEFIELD DANCER* WHO I WANT TO SAVE WAS SENDING OUT CODES THROUGH HAND SIGNALS.

I HAVE A REQUEST, KARIGANE-SAN.

I WON'T FIGHT ANYMORE.

I INTEND TO COME UP WITH A SECRET CHEAT THAT'LL LET EVERYONE MOVE ON.

IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE WITH KOSHIBAI-SAN AND HANAGOROMO-SAN HERE.

...SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO KEEP FIGHTING ON THIS FLOOR.

YOU'RE MAKING A REQUEST OF ME RIGHT AFTER YOU BAN ME?

YOU'RE IN THIRD PLACE, YOU KNOW...

JUST...

...STOP IT ALREADY.

...

I JUST WISH...

...I COULD'VE FOUND A WAY TO BRING YOU AS WELL.

...WHEN I SEE AN EXPRESSION LIKE THAT?

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY NO...

Kakune Karigane has left the room.

NOW, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO...

SILENCE!

B250/500
Court of Law
Floor

...WE SHALL HEREBY BEGIN THE *MILITARY* TRIAL...

KLINK...

...FOR THE *WAR CRIMINAL* KYORA TOSHUSAI!

To be continued!



Chapter 49:

ONE YEAR'S SCHEMES BEGIN WITH CODES

CIPHER ACADEMY

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

CIPHER
ACADEMY

SILENCE! NOW, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, WE SHALL HEREBY BEGIN THE *MILITARY TRIAL*...

B250/500 Court of Law Floor

...FOR THE DAUGHTER AND HEIRESS TO THE MILITARY COMPLEX KICK-ATTACK PLANNING, KYORA TOSHUSAI!

KICK-ATTACK PLANNING? YOU MEAN THE INFAMOUS ENTITY THAT...

...MAKES EVERY WEAPON THERE IS ASIDE FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

THAT MEANS THEY MUST MAKE CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS TOO!

HOW DISGRACE-FUL!

I SOLEMNLY SWEAR TO TELL ONLY THE TRUTH...

...OBEYING MY CONSCIENCE, WITHOUT ENCODING ANYTHING.

GUILTY!

GUILTY!

GUILTY!

GUILTY!

GUILTY!

WHAT'S WITH THIS FARCE?

Defense Counsel Seats

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT WE'D CAUGHT UP SOONER THAN EXPECTED...

JUST LOOK...

DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THIS COURT NECESSARILY ADHERES TO JAPANESE STANDARDS, THOUGH...

THIS FLOOR IS THE REASON WE CAUGHT UP TO HER.

PRETRIAL PROCEEDINGS IN JAPAN TEND TO DRAG ON, YOU KNOW.

...THEY INSTANTLY GET TAKEN THROUGH THE LEFT DOOR, WHICH LEADS TO A SCAFFOLD. IT'S COST-EFFECTIVE.

BUT IF THEY'RE FOUND GUILTY...

IF THE DEFENDANT'S FOUND INNOCENT, THEY GET TO ENTER THE RIGHT DOOR, WHICH GOES DOWN TO THE NEXT FLOOR.

SINCE I WAS NINE. I WAS ORDERED TO DEVELOP...

...A WEAPON THAT EVEN A CHILD COULD USE FROM MY OWN UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE AS A CHILD.

DEFENDANT. CREATING WEAPONS IS YOUR FAMILY TRADE.

FROM WHAT AGE DID YOU START TAKING PART IN THIS WORK?

Prosecutor Hakuai-chan



IT'S A HANDGUN THAT'S EXTREMELY LIGHT, HAS VERY LITTLE KICKBACK, DOESN'T NEED TO BE MAINTAINED...

...AND CAN BE FIRED AS MANY TIMES AS ONE WANTS.

THE CODE NAME OF THE WEAPON I DEVELOPED BASED ON THAT PRINCIPLE IS...

...THE GUN EYE.

WHAT SORT OF TRAGIC RESULT DID THAT LEAD TO?

THAT WEAPON ENDED UP SLIPPING PAST LAW ENFORCEMENT AND WAS EXPORTED...

...TO A SMALL COUNTRY THAT HAD NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH YOURS.

IT'S BASICALLY A TOY GUN. BUT INSTEAD OF TURNING A WEAPON INTO A TOY...

...SHE TURNED A TOY INTO A WEAPON. WHAT A SHOCKING IDEA.

AND IT CAN EVEN USE PEBBLES AS BULLETS.

OBJEC-TION OVER-RULED.

BAM

DEFENDANT! ANSWER THE QUESTION!

OBJECTION.

LEADING, YOUR HONOR.

...DESTROYED PEACE AND ORDER, ESPECIALLY IN URBAN NEIGHBOR-HOODS.

PLACING A TON OF GUN EYES INTO THE HANDS OF THAT COUNTRY'S CHILDREN...

MY TOY GUN EYES DESTROYED AN ENTIRE COUNTRY...

...AND MOST OF THEM DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH THE CHILDREN, WHO ALL HAD WARRANTS FOR THEIR ARRESTS.

IN THE END, THE GOVERNMENT WAS TOPPLED, AND FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, THE COUNTRY FELL INTO RUIN.

PROSE-CUTOR! WHAT PENALTY ARE YOU DEMANDING ?

WAVE ブン

WAVE ブン

IT'S DEKIAI-CHAN'S JOB TO OVERRULE THINGS!

OBJECTION. THE DEFENDANT IS CLEARLY CONFUSED.

I'M OVERRULING THAT. BUT THANKS, TAYUTAN.

GUILTY!

GUILTY!

GUILTY!

GUILTY!

GUILTY!

WE CHARGE THE DEFENDANT WITH A *CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY*, CREATING OVER 500,000 VICTIMS!

AND FOR THAT CRIME, WE SEEK THE MAXIMUM OF PENALTIES!

RATTLE

!

ALL DONE? THEN THE DEFENDANT'S COUNSEL...

...WILL BEGIN QUESTIONING HER.

JUST LEAVE THIS TO ME.

YOU'RE *ALSO* PRETTY BAD AT...

...MAKING EXCUSES AND GETTING OUT OF THINGS, AREN'T YOU?

...

I DON'T MIND.

!

STILL, YOUR HONOR!

IT SEEMS LIKE THE DEFENDANT DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO LOOK AT MY FACE, SO I'D LIKE TO REQUEST SOME SORT OF SCREEN—

SO I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO TALK TO YOU FACE-TO-FACE.

RECENTLY, A CERTAIN FRIEND'S BEEN A GOOD INFLUENCE ON ME...

...KUBINASHI-SAN.

HUH? I DUNNO, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S SOMEONE ELSE...

DO YOU THINK BY "FRIEND," SHE MEANS ME?

...AND I QUOTE, "THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS."

THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ENSURES...

KLAK

IN THAT CASE, DEFENDANT...

...WERE THERE *SCHOOL BUSES* IN THAT COUNTRY?

OBJECTION! THIS IS JAPAN!

AND THE OTHER COUNTRY IN QUESTION ISN'T A UNITED GROUP OF STATES EITHER!

OBJECTION SUSTAINED.

IT'S A VITAL QUESTION NEEDED TO ESTABLISH THE DEFENDANT'S *INNOCENCE*.

PLEASE ANSWER.

OBJECTION! THE INTENT OF THE QUESTION ISN'T CLEAR.

OBJECTION SUSTAINED. THE COUNSEL WILL HEREBY MAKE THEIR INTENTIONS CLEAR.

SHE GAVE WEAPONS TO CHILDREN WHO WERE ACTUALLY ATTENDING SCHOOL?!

EEEP!

IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE WATER-BUSES THEY HAD...

...THEY MIGHT HAVE HAD SOME THEY REFERRED TO BY THAT NAME.

...A CODE FOR YOU ALL.

GOOD, GOOD. NOW, I HAVE...

Q.115

LEVEL.★★★★★★

TWO MALE KIDS AND ONE FEMALE KID GOT ON THE SCHOOL BUS AT ITS FIRST STOP.

THREE BOYS AND TWO GIRLS GOT ON THE BUS AT THE SECOND STOP, WHILE ONE ♂ CHILD AND FOUR ♀ CHILDREN GOT ON THE BUS AT THE THIRD STOP.

FOUR MINORS AND TWO TYKES GOT ON THE BUS AT THE FOURTH STOP.

WELL, THEN. HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE ON THE BUS AT THAT POINT?

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT... AND IF IT'S A SCHOOL BUS, THEN NO ONE SHOULD BE GETTING OUT ALONG THE WAY, MEANING THERE'S NO SUBTRACTION, ONLY ADDITION.

HUH? IS THIS JUST A CRUEL QUIZ WHERE SHE EXPECTS THE PERSON TO FORGET TO INCLUDE THE DRIVER (OR THE COXSWAIN, IN THIS SITUATION) IN THE COUNT?

Q.115

LEVEL.★★★★★★

...YET THE CRUX OF THE QUESTION IS COUNTING HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE ON THE BUS.

IT WAS ALSO STRANGE HOW SHE NEATLY LISTED EACH GROUPING...

TWO M KIDS AND FEMALE M GOT ON THE SCHOOL BUS AT ITS FIRST STOP.

FOUR MINORS AND TWO TYKES GOT ON THE

THREE BOYS AND TWO GIRLS GOT ON THE BUS AT THE SECOND STOP, WHILE

BIP

THE DEFENDANT IS IN CONTEMPT OF COURT!

FAILING TO CRACK A CODE THIS SIMPLE SHOULD EQUATE TO PERJURY!

?!

ONE.

THE CHILDREN IN THAT COUNTRY MAY HAVE HAD NAMES...

...BUT NONE OF THEM POSSESSED *HUMAN RIGHTS.*

TO A FOREIGNER LIKE ME...

...THE SHIP THAT THEY CALLED A SCHOOL BUS...

...WAS A BOAT FULL OF SLAVES.

THEREFORE, WHEN ASKED HOW MANY *PEOPLE* WERE ON IT...

...MY ANSWER IS ONE—THE COXSWAIN.

NOT TREATING *CHILDREN* AS *PEOPLE* AND INSTEAD TREATING *INHUMAN CREATURES* AS *PEOPLE*...

...WERE THE DEFINITIONS SET BY THAT COUNTRY, AND THAT COUNTRY ALONE.

UNTIL THE *SLAVES* RECEIVED *GUN EYES*...

...AND STARTED A REVOLUTION, THAT IS...

SHE *CREATED* EVEN MORE *PEOPLE* THAN THAT.

BUT BY GIVING THEM THE *HUMAN RIGHT* OF BEARING *WEAPONS*...

...CREATED *500,000 VICTIMS.*

YOUR HONOR. YOU JUST ESTIMATED THAT THE DEFENDANT...

...TO SHOOT DOWN THE PUBLIC PEACE AND ORDER RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSLAVING CHILDREN?

ALSO, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE THAT IT WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE...

THE DEFENDANT IS HEREBY FOUND...

WE HAVE REACHED A DECISION, AND WILL NOW PRESENT YOUR SENTENCE.

NO FURTHER CIPHERS.

WHAM

...THIS CASE HAS HEREBY BEEN DISMISSED!

...NOT GUILTY!

SINCE BALANCING HOW MUCH SHE CREATED AND KILLED *RESULTED IN A NET POSITIVE...*

THAT WAS MORE SOPHISTRY THAN A DEFENSE, THOUGH.

THANK YOU, LA FRANCE.

THAT'S WHY I HAVE A DREAM...

...I NEED TO MAKE COME TRUE.

...THE NINE-YEAR-OLD ME FOR PUTTING WEAPONS IN THE HANDS OF A MILLION CHILDREN, YOU KNOW.

THE TEEN ME WILL NEVER FORGIVE...

AS SOON AS I BECOME CODE EMPEROR...

...I'LL IMME-DIATELY ENACT...

...A HAICHO EDICT TO DESTROY ALL THE GUN EYES THAT HAVE BEEN SPREAD ACROSS THE WORLD.

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING, TAYLITAN?

NO, NOTHING, MA'AM.

OTHERWISE, EVEN IF IROHAZAKA-KUN DOES MANAGE TO STOP ALL THE WORLD'S WARS...

...THE KINDLING WILL STILL REMAIN.

PERHAPS SHE ALSO NEEDS THE WISDOM OF CIPHER ACADEMY TO PERFORM THE SEARCH AS WELL.

SO SHE WANTS TO USE THE 50 BILLION MORGUE WE GET FROM COMPLETING THIS TO FIND ALL THE GUN EYES THAT HAVE GONE MISSING.

...ON THE *HOME FRONT.*

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE AT CIPHER ACADEMY...

YES. EVEN THOUGH THINGS GET HARDER...

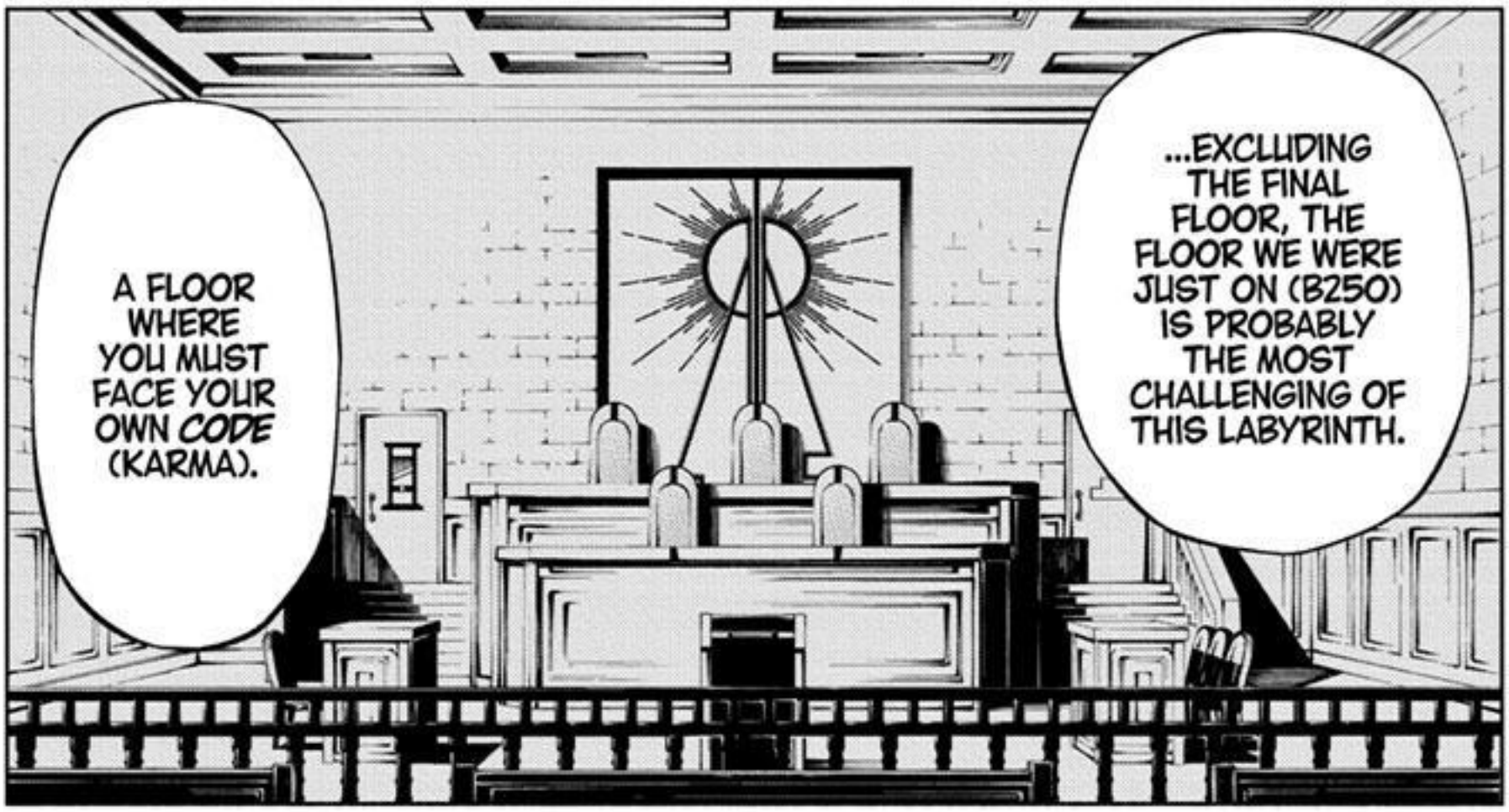
...AS WE DESCEND FARTHER INTO THIS PLACE...

SPEAKING OF IROHAZAKA...

...WE STILL HAVE ONE REASON FOR CONCERN LEFT.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Haichourei is a made-up word that incorporates "chou," the Japanese counter for guns. It may seem ironic that this is the dream of an heiress to a military complex, but Kyora-san focused on developing nonlethal weapons during her middle school years for the very same reason.





To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 50: TIGHT-LIPPED WHEN QUESTIONED, CAPABLE OF DESTROYING CASTLES WHEN SPEAKING FREELY

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

AFTER WATCHING KARIGANE-SAN LOG OUT...

...WE ALL SEARCHED FOR A WAY TO ESCAPE FROM B44 TOGETHER.

OF COURSE, THE SECRET CONDITION OF MAKING SURE THAT EVERYONE WENT OUT MORE THAN ONCE WAS PRETTY DIFFICULT.

WE INSTANTLY REALIZED THAT IF WE GOT THE SAME AMOUNT OF POINTS (SINCE THERE WERE NO RANKING POINTS), ALL FOUR OF US WOULD BE CONSIDERED FIRST PLACE.

...WE SPLIT UP INTO THE TEAMWORK GROUP AND THE COMPLETIONIST GROUP.

WHEN WE GOT TO B67, THE SUBMARINE FLOOR...

...THERE WERE TWO EXITS. IN ORDER TO ALLOCATE RISK...

THEN WE CLEARED THE TIMETABLE CODE ON B99, THE OVERNIGHT TRAIN FLOOR...

...AND RENEWED OUR DETERMINATION AS WE FINALLY HEADED INTO THE THREE-DIGIT FLOORS.

ON THE 80TH FLOOR, THE KARAOKE ROOM FLOOR, WE MET UP WITH OBORO-SAN.



B100/500
Interrogation Room Floor

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

This name hasn't appeared in a while, so allow me to explain. Waon Wasurenagusa was an imaginary classmate established as student #20 from class 1-A whose name appeared as the fictional victim during the murder-mystery game. It appears that this detail got carried over into the Cipher Academy metaverse...

HERE ARE THE TERMS OF YOUR PLEA BARGAINING.

LISTEN CAREFULLY, ALL RIGHT? I'LL ONLY EXPLAIN THIS ONE MORE TIME.

FIRST OF ALL, YOUR ACCOMPLICES ARE ALL EXPERIENCING ...

...THE SAME SITUATION IN THEIR OWN SEPARATE INTERRO-GATION ROOMS.

POOF

ポン

...IN ORDER TO TRY AND GET YOUR SENTENCE REDUCED!

BUT YOU ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO BETRAY YOUR ALLIES...

OF COURSE, YOU ALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.

Q.116

LEVEL.★★★★☆

Three People Betray: Everyone receives sentences of 24 hours.

Two People Betray: Those who betray do not receive a sentence, and those who remain silent receive sentences of 36 hours.

One Person Betrays: The one who betrays doesn't receive a sentence and gets to skip ahead 120 floors. Those who remain silent receive sentences of 48 hours.

No One Betrays: Everyone receives sentences of 12 hours.

JUST LOOK AT THIS CHART...

...AND TRY TO BALANCE THE GAINS AGAINST THE LOSSES.

IT'S BASICALLY GAME THEORY!

THE PRISONER'S DILEMMA!

WE...DID SOMETHING LIKE THIS IN SOCIAL STUDIES!

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS!

"IF YOU BOTH REMAIN SILENT, YOUR SENTENCES WILL BE REDUCED TO FIVE YEARS."

FACING A SENTENCE OF TEN YEARS, PRISONERS A AND B WERE TOLD THIS...

"IF YOU BOTH BETRAY EACH OTHER, YOU'LL KEEP YOUR SENTENCES OF TEN YEARS."

WHAT WOULD YOU DO, CIPHER SOLDIERS?

Prisoner A	Prisoner B: Confess	Prisoner B: Remain Silent
Confess	10·10	0·20
Remain Silent	20·0	5·5

"BUT IF ONE OF YOU BETRAYS THE OTHERS FIRST, YOU'LL BE PARDONED."

"IN THAT CASE, THE OTHER PRISONER WILL RECEIVE A SENTENCE OF 20 YEARS."

Instructor in charge of class 1-B (Social Studies)
Kumomakka Kumorigumo

GOING BACK TO THE VERY BEGINNING...

...WE'VE BEEN ALLIED SINCE THE CASSE-TÊTE QUARTET...

BUT WE AREN'T "PRISONERS"...

WE'RE THE "IROHAZAKA LEAGUE"!

COMPRE-HENSIVELY, IT WOULD BE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR BOTH TO REMAIN SILENT...

...BUT LOGICALLY, BETRAYAL MAKES THE MOST SENSE! THAT'S THE DILEMMA.

...IT'D BE EASY TO BETRAY THEM HERE.

...WHICH IS WHY ONE COULD ALSO SAY...

B180/500
Kitchen Floor

THINGS HAVE BEEN PRETTY EASY SINCE THE INTERRO-GATION ROOM ON B100.

HAVING TO HIBERNATE FOR 12 HOURS WAS BORING, THOUGH...

THEY'RE TRYING TO SIFT THROUGH THE PLAYERS AT THE FLOORS THAT MAKE FOR GOOD INTERVALS.

IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT FROM A MERE DIFFICULTY SPIKE.

THE TWO OF THEM ARE PROS WHEN IT COMES TO WITH-STANDING TORTURE...

WE WERE ABLE TO UNIFY OUR MINDS THANKS TO OUR INSTRUCTOR...

...BUT WHAT ABOUT OMOMURO AND NAMASU, WHO CAME AFTER US?

...BUT IF HE HASN'T GROWN SINCE THE *TRILEMMA*, IT COULD BE TOUGH.

IT DEPENDS ON WHO HIS *ACCOMPLICES* ARE...

THEN WHAT ABOUT ...

...THAT *AMATEUR*?

...THEN HE WON'T HAVE A SINGLE MOVE TO MAKE WHEN HE'S ISOLATED IN AN INTERRO-GATION ROOM!

MEANING, IF HE CAN ONLY READ PEOPLE WHEN HE'S LOOKING AT THEIR FACES...

EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE THREE OF US NOW, THE OPTIONS REMAIN THE SAME!

① BETRAY OR ② REMAIN SILENT...

THERE ARE THREE POSSIBLE RESULTS TO REMAINING SILENT.

① A SENTENCE OF 12 HOURS, ② A SENTENCE OF 36 HOURS, ③ A SENTENCE OF 48 HOURS.

BUT IF I BETRAY THE OTHERS INSTEAD...

① A SENTENCE OF 24 HOURS, ② INSTANT PARDON, ③ INSTANT PARDON AND SKIP AHEAD 120 FLOORS.

TWO-THIRDS ARE GAINS... REALLY CRUEL!

AND THE INCENTIVE FOR BEING THE ONLY ONE TO INCRIMINATE IS VERY POWERFUL.

SKIP AHEAD 120 FLOORS... IN OTHER WORDS, YOU INSTANTLY WARP TO B220.

IT'S A VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY THAT THOSE WHO GOT A LATE START LIKE US CAN'T IGNORE!

HUH?!

"IT WOULD BE ELEMENTARY TO JUST RESET AFTER I'M PUT INTO CUSTODY."

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT SAYING ANYTHING RUDE LIKE THAT!

...

YOU JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR YOUR SENTENCE TO END, OBVIOUSLY!

ON THE PRISON FLOOR YOU GET SENT TO, YOU BASICALLY GET PUT UNDER HOUSE ARREST, UNDERSTAND?!

YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO SLEEP OR TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES!

AND IF THAT GETS INCREASED TO 48 HOURS...

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS... THAT'S A DANGEROUSLY LONG TIME TO DO SOMETHING NONSTOP, EVEN PLAYING A SMARTPHONE GAME...

NOW THAT YOU'VE BOUGHT YOURSELF SOME TIME, WHY DON'T YOU HURRY ON AHEAD?

PLAYING THIS FOR TOO LONG WILL DESTROY YOUR BRAIN, AFTER ALL.

...I COULD HAVE A CHANCE TO CATCH UP WITH THE PERSON IN FIRST PLACE!

ON THE OTHER HAND, IF I COULD NAB A SHORTCUT HERE WITHOUT HAVING TO WAIT...

...WOULD CREATE A HUGE GAP BETWEEN US AND THE LEADING GROUP.

NO, EVEN 12 HOURS...

IN OTHER WORDS...

...A CHANCE AT CATCHING UP WITH TOSHUSAI.

DEFINITELY A MISSION THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO COMPLETE!

HEE HEE HEE. GUESS WE SHOULD CALL THIS "THE CIPHER SOLDIER'S DILEMMA."

CAN'T SAY IT TOO LOUDLY, THOUGH...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

If you think that someone else is going to tell on you, then betraying them is a way to manage risk. If the original sentence is 24 hours, then there's no way for you to lose anything by giving them up.

THERE ISN'T A SINGLE CIPHER SOLDIER IN OUR ACADEMY WHO WOULD BETRAY AN ALLY.

EVEN FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR DREAM.

AND YOU ARE NO EXCEPTION TO THAT RULE, DR. KOGOE.

HUH? YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

MAYBE NOT FOR THE SAKE OF A DREAM, BUT...

...WHAT ABOUT FOR THE SAKE OF REALITY?

BY THE WAY, HOW REAL IS ALL THE "PRIVATE INFORMATION" LISTED HERE?

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP...

!!

EX-CLUDING THE FACT THAT I WAS AN EX-P.O.W. AND AN ESCAPED CONVICT...

...WHO IS CURRENTLY A FUGITIVE.

I ASSUME THAT WAS ALL MADE UP BY KOGOE, NATURALLY.

THE CHARACTER SHEETS FROM THE MURDER-MYSTERY GAME...?

UMITSU-BAME-SAN...

...TO PAY AN ASTRONOMICAL SUM COMPOSED OF BAIL AND PENALTIES.

MY INFO WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT, BUT IT'S KINDA SIMILAR. ♪

HONESTLY, I PLAN TO USE THE 50 BILLION MORGUE...

...WHO HAVE NO CONTROL OVER OUR OWN REALITIES. ♪

LIVING FOR A DREAM IS SUPER EMO, BUT YOU SHOULD REMEMBER...

...THAT THERE ARE ALSO PEOPLE LIKE US, IROHAZAKA-KUN...

THIS ISN'T A CHOICE.

IT'S CODE MURDER.

...FAILING TO COMPLETE THIS LABYRINTH EQUALS DESPAIR! THAT'S THE REALITY!

BUT TO PEOPLE LIKE OBORO-SAN...

IN THE END, EVEN IF A HUMAN'S DREAMS AND WISHES NEVER COME TRUE...

...THEY'LL STILL SURVIVE!






OKAY THEN, PRESUMED INNOCENTS, ALLOW US TO PRESENT THE RESULTS!
TIME'S UP, YOU WANNABE CROOKS!

ONE PERSON TALKED!

SOBORO OBORO!

YOU MUST'VE KNOWN THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN!

OH, DON'T TRY TO PRETEND YOU'RE SHOCKED!

...

IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL.

KLINK

...TO KNOW.

I DIDN'T NEED TO SEE OBORO-SAN'S FACE...

YEAH, I DID.

Favorite Food – Chiraga (face skin)

Don't Mention This – Joining the dark side

Morgue – 170,000,000

Not-Yet-Public Information

Ex-POW

I spent a year in prison for a crime I didn't commit. That's where I got the eye mark on my forehead. I escaped after figuring out the code number for my cell. I entered Cipher Academy to evade my pursuers and to get revenge on the people in power who pushed false charges on me.

SO THAT WE COULD GO ON AHEAD AS FAST AS POSSIBLE...

SHE CONFESSED THAT *SHE COMMITTED THE CRIME ALL ON HER OWN, RIGHT?*

Soboro Oboro
Sent to the prison floor [B???/500] (Sentence of 72 hours)

...TSUBAME.

IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL ...

I NEVER THOUGHT OBORO WOULD KILL REALITY LIKE THAT...

...AND SACRIFICE HERSELF FOR OTHER PEOPLE.

NATURALLY, THAT PERSON ENDS UP HAVING TO SERVE ALL THREE SENTENCES THEMSELVES...

IF INCRIMINATING TWO ALLOWS ONE PERSON TO SKIP AHEAD 120 FLOORS...

...THEN DOES ONE PERSON INCRIMINATING THEMSELVES ALLOW THE OTHER TWO TO SKIP AHEAD 60?

Iroha Irohazaka
Ensa Kasuri

B160/1500
Department Store
Floor

TALK ABOUT A CRUEL BETRAYAL.

EN-CHAN.

I WANT TO CLEAR THIS DUNGEON WITHIN 24 HOURS.

OBORO-SAN SHOULD BE FREED ONCE IT'S COMPLETED, AFTER ALL.

IS THAT POSSIBLE?

OF COURSE.

THIS IS JUST ANOTHER GRUDGE...

DING

チン

1 6 0

THANKS. IN THAT CASE, IT SHOULD BE...

...ELEMENTARY FOR THE *LEAGUE* TO ACCOMPLISH, THEN.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Which is more effective—one person moving ahead 120 floors or two people moving ahead 60 floors? Of course, it's case by case, but what'll happen if someone keeps a glasses weapon on for 72 hours? I've never tried it before, so even I don't know. Can't say this too loudly, though...

IROHA IROHAZAKA AND ENSA KASURI...

SOBORO OBORO AND SUNKA UMITSU-BAME!

THE IROHAKAZAKA LEAGUE IS STILL ALIVE AND KICKING!

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

B175/500

??? Floor

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

Chapter 51: IT'S BEST TO DECODE AND RUN AWAY FROM TROUBLESOME THINGS

KLIK

SHFF

スー…

IT'S OUR FIRST TIME REACHING A FLOOR THAT'S PURELY JAPANESE IN STYLE LIKE THIS...

I WONDER WHAT ITS THEME IS...?


THOK
THOK
THOK
THOK
THOK
BWAP

?!

...

WHA—

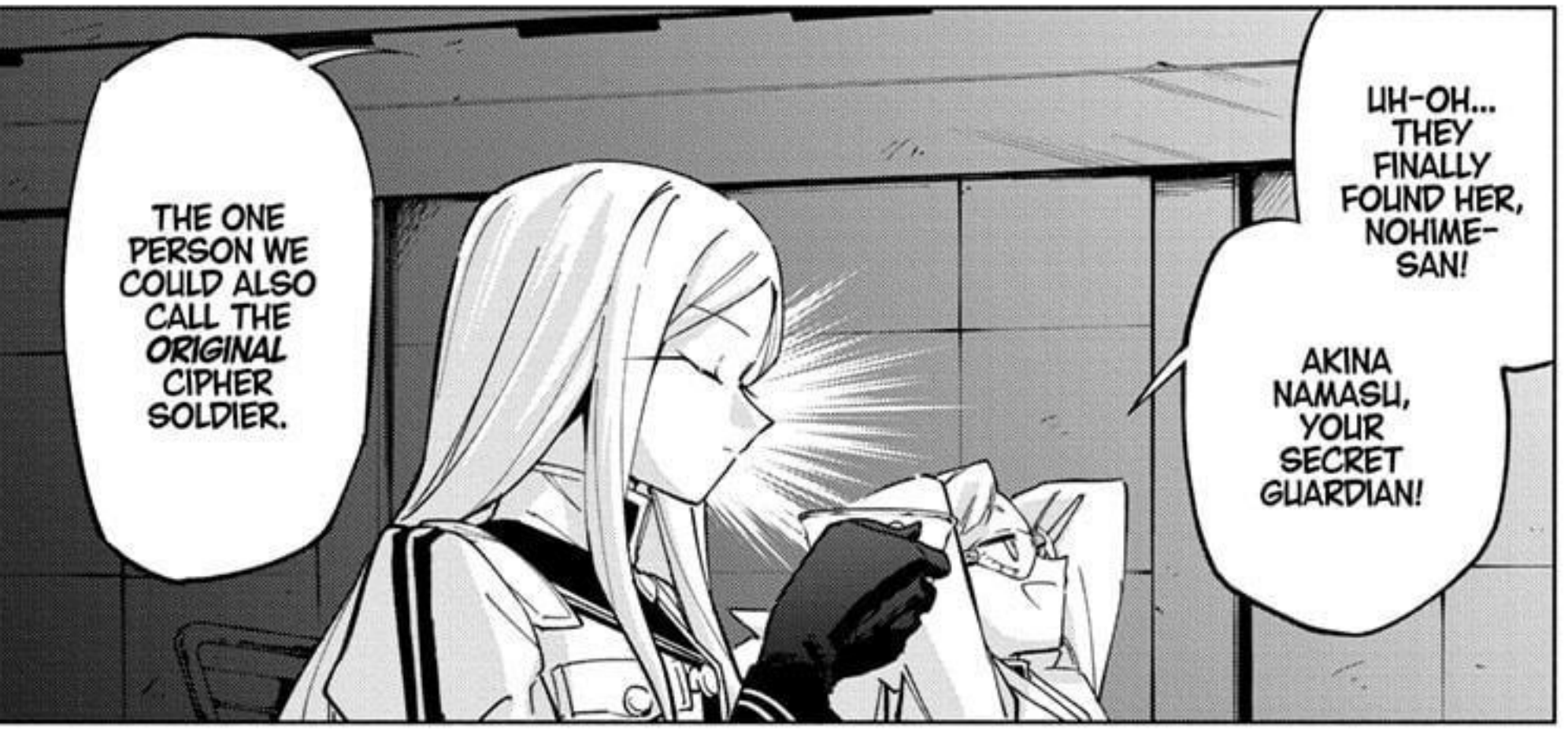
NIPO.

NIPO?

AH...

NAMASU-
SAN?!

NINJA TECHNIQUE: FLIPPING TATAMI?!





...GIRI NAMASU TO SHOW OFF HER SKILLS.

...T

NIJI.

...

TRAP.

TRAP?

THANK YOU, NAMASU-SAN. YOU SAVED OUR LIVES...

WHERE'S OMOMURO-SAN? I FIGURED...

...YOU TWO WOULD HAVE MET UP AROUND BIOO OR THERE-ABOUTS.

!!

TOK

ON.

...

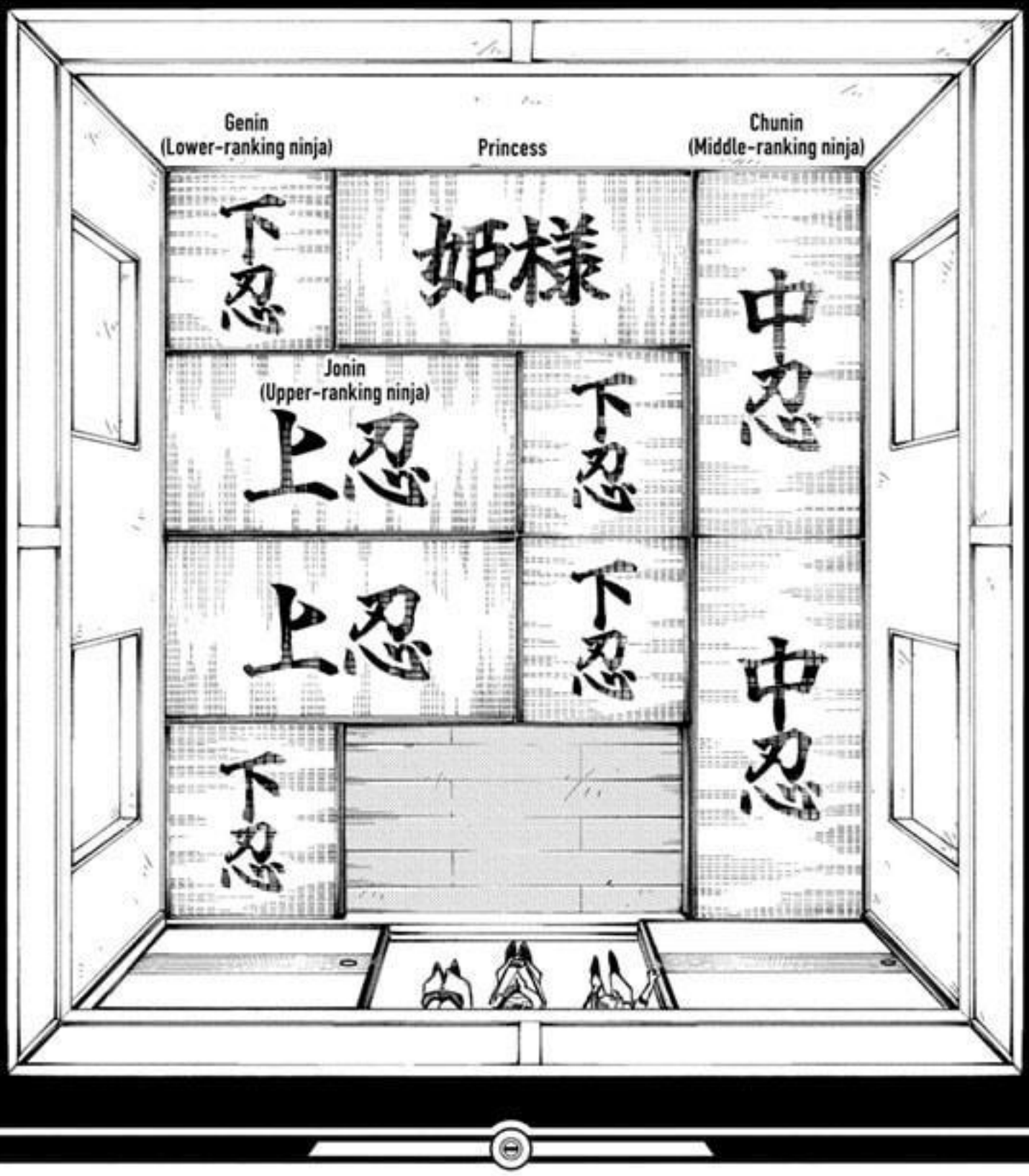
ON?

OH, DID OMOMURO-SAN GO ON AHEAD?

AH, WAIT! DON'T GO IN JUST YET!

Q.117

LEVEL.★★★☆☆


Genin
(Lower-ranking ninja)
Princess
Chunin
(Middle-ranking ninja)
下忍
姫様
中忍
Jonin
(Upper-ranking ninja)
上忍
下忍
下忍
上忍
下忍
中忍
下忍


UHH... I'M PRETTY SURE IT IS...
IS THIS THE LAST CODE FOR THIS FLOOR...?

SORRY, WHAT'S A HAKOIRI MUSUME AGAIN?

IT'S A SLIDE-PUZZLE VARIATION...

...SIMILAR TO A 15 PUZZLE!

HAMU.

THAT'S RIGHT! THIS IS A *HAKOIRI MUSUME*!

A SLIDE PUZZLE...

YEAH.

YOU NEED TO USE THE OPEN SPACE AND SLIDE THE TATAMI.

IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE PUZZLE, YOU NEED TO GET THE PRINCESS OUT FROM THE FARTHEST SPOT SO SHE CAN ESCAPE.

SHFF

ズズズ...

THIS KINDA...

...FEELS WAY TOO EASY COMPARED TO WHAT WE RAN INTO ON OUR WAY HERE...

IS THERE ANY REASON TO FOCUS THAT MUCH ON THE SCENARIO BEHIND THE GAME?

...

AND WHAT DOES THE PRINCESS NEED TO ESCAPE FROM?

I DON'T SEE ANY TRICKS TO THE FLOORS OR WALLS EITHER.

AND LOOKING AT IT NOW, THE TATAMI APPEAR TO BE NORMAL TATAMI.

姫様

上忍

下忍

下忍

下忍

上忍

下忍

中忍

...BUT WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL WITH NAMASU-SAN TOO.

IT'S NOT NECESSARILY BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED WITH KARIGANE-SAN...

...

I'M SURE SHE'LL BE ABLE TO GET ALONG...

...WITH IROHAZAKA-KUN, AFTER ALL.

YOU WANT TO CHOOSE ONE PERSON FROM MY FACTION?

THEN I WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND NAMASU.

下忍
下忍
中忍
中忍
下忍
下
中忍
上忍
上忍
姫様





I'VE HEARD THAT THE SIZE OF TATAMI DIFFERS DEPENDING ON THE REGION...

HUH? IT'S TOO BIG TO GET PAST THE DOORS.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Kyoto tatami are a bit bigger than Tokyo tatami, while the size of Nagoya tatami falls between the two. Remember that if you ever have to move.

?!

FSSSH...

FSSSH...

ZAH

THE TRICK WASN'T ON THE FLOORS OR THE WALLS, BUT...

A SUS-PENDED CEILING ?

FSSSH...

?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NAMASU-SAN?! I KNOW THIS IS VIRTUAL REALITY, BUT...

...IF YOU GET CRUSHED HERE, YOUR BRAIN WILL BE CRUSHED IN REAL LIFE TOO!

DREAM.

BWAP

SORRY FOR DOUBTING YOU, EVEN IF IT WAS JUST FOR A SECOND!

FORGIVE ME!

LET ME STAY HERE UNTIL THE VERY LAST SECOND TOO...

FOR MY DREAM!

OKAY.

FSHH...

ズズズ

SO THE "ESCAPE"...

...ACTUALLY MEANT ESCAPING FROM THIS SUSPENDED CEILING.

...I CAN JUST GRAB THEM AND RUN...

IF IT REALLY COMES DOWN TO THE WIRE...

!!

...EVEN IF IT MAKES THEM HATE ME—

...HAD TO GET THROUGH THIS FLOOR TOO.

BUT THERE MUST BE A SOLUTION! OMOMURO-SAN AND KUBINASHI-SAN...

LIMO!

WHAP

THREE-ARMED...

...SLOTH STARTER!

THE PLAN THAT IRO-IRO PROPOSED WITH HIS EXPRESSION WAS...

WHAP

SHE USED ONE TATAMI AS A SUPPORT? NO!

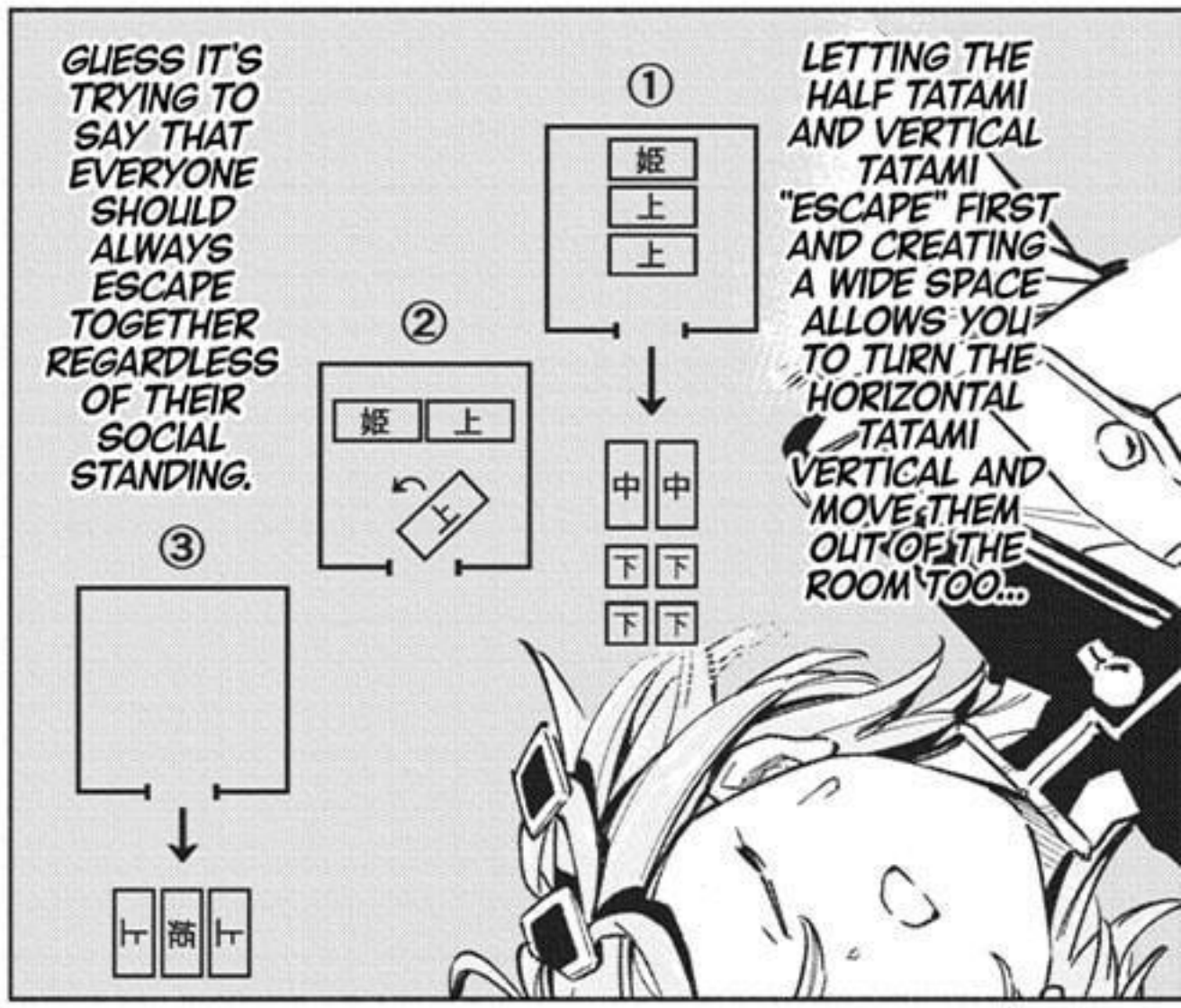
ANOTHER TATAMI FLIP?!

ガシャン

KLANG







Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

What Iroha communicated with his expression was the "Linear Motor Car Plan," where a person quickly rotates a tatami by bumping it into the air and spinning it with zero friction in order to get them all out of the room one at at time. As long as you have time (and space), it can be solved without ninja arts or super speed. Of course, it breaks the rules of the "hakoiri musume" puzzle, but as you know, there's no such thing as breaking the rules in war. (Winning by cheating is allowed.)

THANK!

ELEMENTARY!

パシッ SMAK

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 52: THE BETRAYAL OF A BETRAYAL GETS ALL THE BLAME

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

Cipher Academy Metaverse
B242/500

Presidential Jet Floor

WHOOOSH

1-A class leading private level
Rokaku Yosaimura

YOSAIMURAS JUST CAN'T STAND NOT CRUSHING EVIL PLOTS.

SORRY. IT'S IN OUR BLOOD.

CAN YOU NOT GET IN MY WAY RIGHT NOW, MA'AM?

I'M SCHEDULED FOR A STRATEGY MEETING WITH THAT BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

1-F class leading private
Shakunage Hakanage

THIS ISN'T WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT AT ALL...

REQUESTED-SAN? WHY DID YOU COME HERE WITH THIS PERSON?

IN THAT CASE...

FINE.

...THERE'S NO PROMISE I CAN'T BREAK.

C'MON, SHAKUNAGE-SAN, YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW...

1-A class leading private level
Anonymity Requested

Q.118

LEVEL.★★★★★

...KINGFISHER REVERSI.

...LET'S LIFT OUR FIGHTING SPIRITS...

...WITH THIS GAME-BOARD CODE BATTLE...

IT'S A GAME SIMILAR TO OTHELLO THAT USES A NINE-BY-NINE BOARD.

IT'S AN ITEM I FOUND ON B197, THE GO HALL FLOOR.

...USING WHATEVER'S CLOSE AT HAND.

AS USUAL, SHE'S COME UP WITH A WEIRD GAME...

...THAT I ACQUIRED ON B213, THE EXCHANGE FLOOR.

FOR THE PIECES, WE CAN USE THESE COINS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD...

SO IT'S BASICALLY REVERSI...

...BUT YOU DON'T WIN SIMPLY BASED ON HEADS/TAILS PIECE COUNT?

EXACTLY. KINGFISHER REVERSI IS A MONEY GAME...

...WHERE YOU WIN BASED ON THE TOTAL MONETARY VALUE OF YOUR HEADS/TAILS PIECES.

IT'S PERFECT FOR THE ULTIMATE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

YOUR PROGRESS ALONG THE WAY DOESN'T MATTER. EVEN IF YOU END UP WITH FEWER COINS THAN YOUR OPPONENT.

ALL THAT MATTERS IS WHO HAS THE MOST MONEY IN THE END.

Today's Exchange Rates

	JPY
1USD	150.43
1EUR	162.21
1CNY	19.91
1THB	5.01
1CHF	170.00
CAD	111.11
GBP	188.18
RW	12.34
GWD	4.94
IR	2.32
JB	1.91
AR	9.91
SED	42.33
AUD	98.43

BUT BEFORE PUTTING DOWN A PIECE, YOU NEED TO CLOSE YOUR EYES...

...AND PICK A COIN OUT OF THE BAG LIKE SO.

AFTER ALL, WARS ARE FOUGHT OVER IT...

MONEY IS SACRED TOO, ISN'T IT?

WELL, I'M KINDA AGAINST PLACING MONEY ON A SACRED THING LIKE A GO BOARD.

THAT'S IT FOR THE RULES. ANY QUESTIONS?

ANONYMITY-SAN! MIND SITTING OUT UNTIL WE SETTLE THIS?

BUT AS THEY SAY, BYSTANDERS OFTEN SEE THE GAME BETTER THAN THE PLAYERS DO.

TRUE...

I TRUST IN BOTH YOUR BETRAYAL AND YOUR DOUBLE-CROSSING.

OF COURSE I TRUST YOU.

YOU MUST REALLY TRUST ME.

HEH HEH HEH.

BY THE WAY, WE STILL HAVEN'T DECIDED WHAT WE'RE BETTING ON IN THIS CODE BATTLE.

ANY REQUESTS ASIDE FROM...

...THE LOSER GETTING BANNED FROM THE LABYRINTH?

SLAM
バタン

...IN ANY EVIL PLOTS EVER AGAIN, OKAY?

IF I WIN, YOU AREN'T ALLOWED TO INVOLVE MY FRIEND...

NOTHING. I WOULD NEVER ATTEMPT TO TORTURE A CIPHER SOLDIER...

...WHO WAS PICKED BASED ON THEIR PERSONALITY ALONE.

Second Move
(Tails)
Hakanage

First Move
(Heads)
Yosaimura

...THE CONTOURS OF A COIN CAN BE *DECODED* WITH ONE'S FINGERS.

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH LUCK OR THE LACK THEREOF.

AFTER ALL, EVEN WITH ONE'S EYES CLOSED...

THEY EACH STARTED WITH A ONE-DOLLAR COIN AND A ONE-EURO COIN...

ARE THEY BOTH UNLUCKY?

HEE HEE HEE!

IN OTHER WORDS, WHEN YOU PUT DOWN AN EXPENSIVE COIN...

...AND HAVING IT CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR POINTS.

STILL, THEY BOTH FIRED THEIR FIRST SHOTS IN A CAUTIONARY MANNER BECAUSE...

...WHEN YOU PLACE AN EXPENSIVE COIN DOWN, YOU RUN THE RISK OF LETTING AN ENEMY FLIP IT...


JINGLE
JINGLE
JINGLE
JINGLE

JINGLE

JINGLE

JINGLE

JINGLE

THAT'S A 500-YEN COIN, ONE OF JAPAN'S EXPENSIVE COINS!

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU NEED TO PUT IT IN A CORNER WHERE IT CAN'T BE FLIPPED OVER.

TINK カーン

!

WITH THIS, HAKANAGE'S SECURED 500 YEN FOR HERSELF.

CORNERS ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT IN NORMAL OTHELLO.

...SHE PLACED A DIFFERENT EXPENSIVE COIN—A FIVE SWISS FRANC!

SHE CAUGHT BACK UP! IN THE OPPOSITE CORNER...

SMAK パチ

Torturer Shakunage's One-Point Lessons

Of course, Othello (reversi) isn't all about going for the corners either. On the contrary, only beginners desperately aim for the corners. With Kingfisher Reversi, a good strategy would be to first put down cheap coins in spots that will probably get flipped.

IF THAT COIN'S STILL BURIED IN THERE...

THERE ARE ONLY A HANDFUL OF COINS STILL IN THE BAG. IT'S BECOME MUCH EASIER TO SEARCH THROUGH.

THIS MAY BE WHERE THE WINNER GETS DECIDED.

AT THIS RATE SHE'LL TAKE THE NEXT CORNER TOO.

TOK

고ㅏ

HFF...

고ㅏ ッ

!

I FOUND IT!

A COIN EXPENSIVE ENOUGH TO MAKE UP FOR THE ENTIRE BOARD!

THAT'S 50 CANADIAN DOLLARS!

A GOLD MAPLE LEAF COIN!

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

As its name suggests, the gold Maple Leaf coin is made of gold and is actually more expensive if converted into gold. However, we're considering what it's actually supposed to be worth here. In Japan, there are commemorative coins worth 100,000 yen. The main question is whether or not you can decode it with your fingertips alone... Incidentally, *hisui*, the word for "jade" in Japanese, can also mean "sly."

...BUT I THOUGHT ONE CORNER WAS STILL OPEN?

ALL OF A SUDDEN, ALL FOUR CORNERS ARE FULL...

...BOARD...

THE ENTIRE...

ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD FOLLOW RULES LIKE THAT.

CLOSING YOUR EYES IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME...

...AND TREATING PROGRESS ALONG THE WAY LIKE IT DOESN'T MATTER...

...BUT IF YOU LET YOURSELF BECOME BOUND TO STRANGE RULES, YOU'RE BASICALLY ENSLAVING YOURSELF.

FAIRNESS IS NICE AND ALL...

YOU'RE ONE OF ANONYMITY-SAN'S OLD FRIENDS, AFTER ALL.

I KNEW YOU'D TRY A STUNT LIKE THIS AT SOME POINT.

BUT I GUESS THAT'S SOMETHING A BAD LOSER WOULD SAY, HUH?

...

I'M

CAN I ASK HOW MUCH IT'S WORTH IN JAPANESE YEN?

DID YOU HIDE IT IN YOUR MASK OR SOME-THING?

...IT MEANS THAT COIN DIDN'T COME FROM THE BAG, RIGHT?

IF YOU PUT THAT DOWN IN A CORNER WHILE I HAD MY EYES CLOSED FOR A WHILE...

?!

A ONE-MORGUE COIN IS WORTH...

...

INFRINGMENT UPON FOREIGN EXCHANGE LAWS

YEN.

...A MATERIAL VERSION OF VIRTUAL CURRENCY?

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHERE DID SHE GET...

HOW DOES SHE KNOW ABOUT THE MORGUE CRYPTO-CURRENCY?

AND THE NUMBER'S PERFECTLY ACCURATE AS OF TODAY'S RATE...

Today's Exchange Rates

	JPY
1USD	150.43
1EUR	162.21
1CNY	19.91
1THB	5.01
1CHF	170.00
1CAD	111.11
1GBP	188.18
1GRW	

...MAKING IT AN EXPLOSIVE THAT WOULD BE SURE TO CAUSE HYPERINFLATION IF EXCAVATED.

INCIDENTALLY, THE TOTAL VALUE OF ALL MONEY ON EARTH IS EQUAL TO APPROXIMATELY 200 QUADRILLION YEN...

...WHICH IS EQUAL TO

INFRINGMENT UPON FOREIGN EXCHANGE LAWS

PERCENT OF THE 50 BILLION MORGUE ON THE FINAL FLOOR OF THE CIPHER ACADEMY METAVERSE...

THAT LEADER'S THE REAL FOOL.

WHAT DID HE WANT TO DO WITH THE 50 BILLION MORGUE AGAIN?

"STOP ALL THE WORLD'S WARS"?

"A CALAMITOUS CRYPTO-CURRENCY WHOSE VALUE GOES UP BASED ON HOW MANY WARS START"...

...RIGHT?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO RULE OUT THE EXISTENCE OF SOME-THING LIKE THIS.

THAT'S WHY YOU'VE COME TO BURY IT.

THAT'S YOUR DREAM.

SORRY FOR CALLING IT AN EVIL PLOT.

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

THE ONLY THING THAT FORTUNE CAN CREATE IS *INHERITANCE WARS.*

HOW ABOUT JUST GIVING UP LIKE A GOOD SPORT?

...YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN US.

EVEN IF YOU WERE TO PUT COINS DOWN ON THE REMAINING SPACES ...

SPEAKING OF "BURY," LET'S GET BACK TO THE BOARD.

?

THIRDLY, ALTHOUGH I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CLOSE THE GAP...

...I STILL MAY BE ABLE TO *TURN IT UPSIDE DOWN.*

FWISH

FIRST OFF, I WILL NOT GIVE UP.

SECONDLY, IROHAZAKA-KUN ISN'T A FOOL.

...BUT THIS TIME, I'M ACTUALLY TURNING SOMETHING UPSIDE DOWN, YOSAIMURA-HAN!

I KNOW I ALWAYS BETRAY AND DOUBLE-CROSS PEOPLE...

HA!

KWEEEEEEEE

YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR A MORE LITERAL TURNING OF THE TABLES.

WE TURNED THE *ENTIRE AIRPLANE UPSIDE DOWN*, THUS FLIPPING THE BOARD AS WELL.

NOPE.

IT'S FAIRNESS FOR A FOUL PLAY.

EYE FOR AN EYE, TOOTH FOR A TOOTH...

...CHEATING FOR CHEATING, HUH?

IN WHICH CASE, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RESPOND TO THAT *FOUL PLAY*...

...WITH SOME *FAIRNESS*.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU LEFT YOURSELF OPEN.

AND IN THAT REGARD, IT'S FAIR.

YOUR EVIL LAW CREATED THE POSSIBILITY FOR THE SAME SORT OF THING TO HAPPEN TO YOU.

...TORTURING AT ALL...

SHE REALLY ISN'T WORTH...

IT'S ASTOUNDING TO THINK THEY WERE ALL ACTUALLY PURE TRUTHS.

YOU'RE ONE OF ANONYMITY-SAN'S OLD FRIENDS, AFTER ALL.

I KNEW YOU'D TRY A STUNT LIKE THIS AT SOME POINT.

OF COURSE I TRUST YOU.

THAT LINE...

...AND THOSE WORDS...

SO THE *UNFAIR* RESPONSE...

...WAS JUST A PRODUCT OF THAT *FAIRNESS*, HUH?

Shakunage Hakanage logged out.

SUCH A WASTE OF GOOD TALENT...

NO, OF GOOD CHARACTER.

A SHAME YOU HAVE TO REMAIN...

...BURIED IN CLASS A...

GRRP

...ISN'T THAT RIGHT, IROHAZAKA?

WE ONLY WON THIS BECAUSE WE'RE CLASS A...

NOR WOULD SHE HAVE ASKED ME FOR HELP.

IF THIS HAD HAPPENED BEFORE THE LEADING PRIVATE BATTLE, SHE PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE ACCEPTED SHAKUNAGE'S EVIL LAW.

THE WINNER OF KINGFISHER REVERSI IS...

THE POPULARITY MONSTER, ROKAKU YOSAIMURA!

To be continued!

CIPHER ACADEMY

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

Chapter 53:

AND YET THE EARTH STILL REVOLVES (AROUND WAR)

B199/500

Sewer Floor

BEFORE WE FINALLY REACH THE 200'S...

...I'D LIKE TO ORGANIZE AND GO OVER THE PATTERNS WE'VE SEEN SO FAR.

SKRIT

Cipher Academy Metaverse B1/500

Air-Raid Shelter Floor

I'VE SEEN AN EXORBIT ON ONE OF THESE IN THE FACILITY...

...BUT THIS IS MY FIRST TIME ENTERING A REAL AIR-RAID SHELTER...

NEXT, WE HAVE THE *DANGEROUS FLOORS.*

FROM THE LOW-RISK PENALTY OF GETTING BANNED TO THE HIGH-RISK PENALTY OF DYING FROM AN EXPLOSION...

Marshal Mahjong! B44/500

...MAHJONG PARLOR FLOOR!

B175/500

??? Floor

...THE SCALES OF EACH DIFFER, BUT THEY ALL HAVE CONCRETE PENALTIES.

KYA HA HA!

THE RECKLESS PART'S WHAT MAKES IT FUN!

FIRST, WE HAVE THE *NORMAL FLOORS.*

YOU CAN'T COMPLETE THEM UNLESS YOU BREAK THE CODES...

...I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF BECOMING, FROM THE BOTTOM OF

AND THAT'S THE KIND OF LEADER...

...BUT THEY DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR PENALTIES.

AFTER THAT, I THINK IT WAS ON B67, THE SUBMARINE FLOOR...

THERE WERE TWO EXITS, SO IN ORDER TO ALLOCATE RISK...

THEN, WE HAVE THE BONUS-STAGE FLOORS.

FLOORS THAT CONTAIN SECRET PASSAGES THAT ALLOW YOU TO WARP.

OF COURSE, WARPING THROUGH SOMEONE ELSE'S SACRIFICE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

Normal / Dangerous / Bonus

ノーマル　デンジャラス　ボー

協力プレイ　2択
エンカウント　多答
溺愛ちゃん　迷路
風刺　物理トラップ
パズル　心理戦

Co-op
Encounter
Dekiai-chan
Parody
Puzzle

Two choices
Multiple choice
Labyrinth
Physical traps
Psychological battles

HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DANGEROUS FLOORS...

...WE WANT TO TRY AND WARP BIT BY BIT, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

SPLISH ちゃぷ。

SQUARE NUMBERS.

IF WE WERE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT SOME SORT OF RULE TO THEM, THAT MIGHT CHANGE THINGS...

BUT IF WE SPEND TOO MUCH TIME SEARCHING FOR THE SECRET PASSAGES, WE COULD END UP PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE.

THERE ARE ALWAYS SECRET PASSAGES ON FLOORS THAT ARE SQUARE NUMBERS.

WORMP

OF COURSE, THEY ALL STILL CARRY A SMALL RISK, BUT...

OMO-MURO-SAN?

BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE AHEAD OF US!

...

NO...

YOU GOT A GAME OVER IN THE 200'S, AND YOU'RE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF RESTARTING?!

AND DID YOU MAKE UP FOR YOUR LOST TIME BY WARPING?

...

OMO-MURO-SAN.

FOR A CIPHER SOLDIER TO BE THAT SURE ABOUT HERSELF, THIS MUST BE AT LEAST HER THIRD OR FOURTH RETRY...

SHE'S TOO CONFIDENT ABOUT HER INTEL FOR THIS TO SIMPLY BE HER FIRST RETRY.

HOW MANY RUNS HAVE YOU DONE?

IN TERMS OF REACHING B250, TO PUT IT PRECISELY...

...I GOT UP TO B249 SEVEN TIMES, AND I'M NOW ONLY ON MY EIGHTH RUN.

LEARNING THROUGH DYING...

...IS ELEMENTARY IN VIDEO GAMES, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

STILL, LET US NOT FORGET THAT YUKAKO OMOMURO USED TO BE PART OF THE KUBINASHI GROUP.

CRAWLING THROUGH UNDERGROUND TUNNELS IS HER SPECIALTY.

STACKING UP RUNS IN A ROGUELIKE...

I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED NO LESS FROM A MEMBER OF THE TOSHUSAI FACTION.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

If anything, "learning through dying" is more of an elementary element of things like shooting games. It's true that even in roguelikes, where the patterns change every time the game resets, it's possible to figure out the "rules" through repeated playthroughs. But recently, we've been seeing fewer and fewer games like that. These days, reset marathons are mainstream.

NO, ZAKURO-GUCHI-SAN.

THIS IS NOT SOMETHING SHE SHOULD BE PRAISED FOR.

DOING WHAT SHE JUST DID IS EXACTLY HOW I LOST...

...BOTH OF MY EYES, AFTER ALL.

THERE ARE ALSO LOOPHOLES ON FLOORS WHERE PLAYERS HAVE TO EITHER COOPERATE WITH OR BATTLE AGAINST EACH OTHER.

THE CONDITIONS ARE STRICTER THERE, BUT IF YOU MANAGE TO AVOID THE ENCOUNTERS...

...IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE THE GAME BY YOURSELF.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PRISON FLOOR?

OBORO-SAN'S STUCK THERE RIGHT NOW...

UNFOR-TUNATELY, I STILL HAVEN'T MANAGED TO REACH THAT ONE, AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE.

I WAS ABLE TO AVOID ALL THE IRREVERSIBLE PENALTIES, YOU SEE.

...BUT WHY DOES SOMETHING STILL FEEL OFF ABOUT THIS?

SHE APPROACHED US IN ORDER TO WARN US...

IF YOU GET AN ANSWER WRONG, YOU'LL GET HIT BY A FLASH FLOOD, SO BE CAREFUL.

INCIDENTALLY, *THIS FLOOR*, B199, IS ONE OF THE DANGEROUS ONES.

...ASIDE FROM THE STRATEGY I JUST SHARED WITH YOU.

I PLAN ON ENDING MY REPEATED RUNS AND MEETING UP WITH THE YOUNG MISS.

THERE ARE OTHER SECRETS I WANT TO CONVEY TO HER...

HERE?

HEH... A SILLY QUES-TION.

...SHE'S STILL EXPLORED TEN TIMES THE FLOORS WE HAVE...

WOW... SHE'S INCREDIBLE.

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S SKIPPED A LOT...

...BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL THE OTHER PENALTIES?

SHE SAID SHE WAS ABLE TO "AVOID ALL THE IRREVERSIBLE PENALTIES"...

...YET SHE'S STAGGERING AS IF SHE'S BEEN AT IT FOR 100 HOURS STRAIGHT.

THAT'S RIGHT! EVEN THOUGH SHE'S GONE ON REPEATED RUNS, SHE'S STILL BEEN PLAYING FOR THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME WE HAVE...

PLAYING THIS FOR TOO LONG WILL DESTROY YOUR BRAIN, AFTER ALL.

SHE'S INCURRED SEVEN AND A HALF RUNS' WORTH OF STRESS TO HER BRAIN THAT CAN'T BE RESET!

SHE'S BEEN PURPOSEFULLY SUFFERING THE PENALTIES IN ORDER TO LEARN EVERYTHING SHE CAN!

LEARNING THROUGH DYING...

...IS ELEMENTARY IN VIDEO GAMES, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

O...

OMOMURO-SAN!

GRIT

WHETHER IT'S A WAR OR A LABYRINTH...

...AS LONG AS YOU CAN MAKE IT HOME ALIVE, YOU'VE WON.

I CHALLENGE YOU TO A CODE BATTLE!

IF I WIN, YOU HAVE TO LOG OUT AT ONCE!

BY MY RIGHT AS THE GRADE-WIDE LEADER, I'M FORCING YOU TO ACCEPT.

OF COURSE, IF I LOSE...

...I'LL BECOME YOUR SERVANT OR TRANSFER INTO TRENCH ACADEMY. WHATEVER YOU WANT.

THIS IS A BATTLE OF EXILE.

IT'S ELEMENTARY!

SKRIT
SKRIT
SKRIT
SKRIT
SKRIT
SKRIT

I UNDERSTAND THAT HE'S CONCERNED ABOUT ME.

BUT NO ONE ASKED HIM TO BE. AND MORE THAN THAT, IT'S HUMILIATING.

OMO-MURO-SAN...

IRO-IRO CAN COMMUNICATE WITH FACIAL EXPRESSIONS, SO HE SOMETIMES DOESN'T FULLY EXPLAIN THINGS...

ALL DONE!

OR PERHAPS I'M THE ONE WHO FELL.

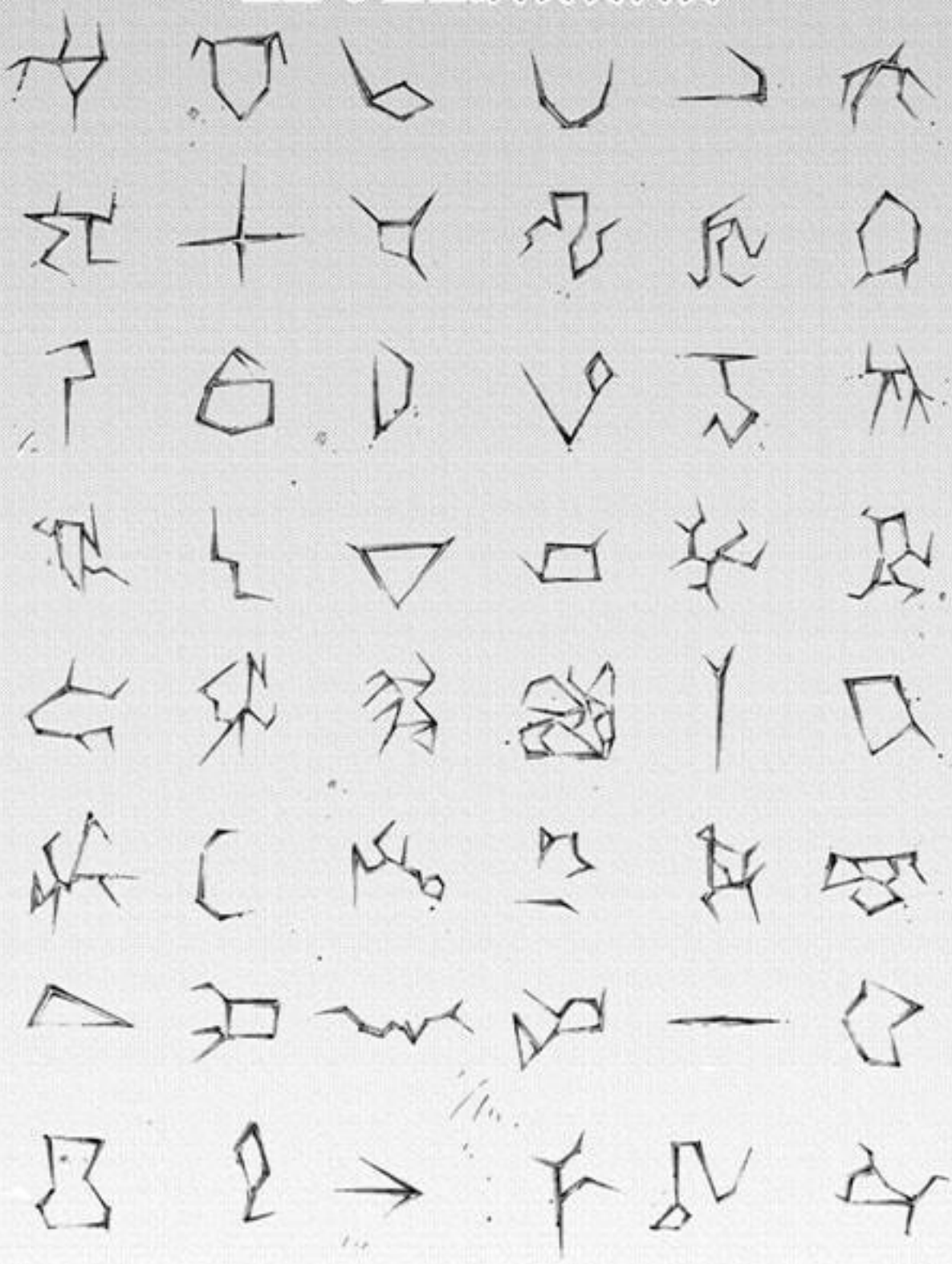
Thank you.

I SHARE INTEL WITH HIM, AND HE THANKS ME WITH A DISCHARGE NOTICE.

MY, HOW HIS EGO MUST HAVE GROWN.

Q.119

LEVEL.★★★★★





...BUT I WON'T LET YOU DEFEAT ME IN A PURE CODE BATTLE.

I ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR QUICK-WITTEDNESS AND THE FACT THAT YOU'VE GROWN...

...AND IF I WERE TO MAKE A HYPOTHESIS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THERE ARE 48 TOTAL...

BUT THERE AREN'T ANY CONSTELLATIONS SHAPED LIKE THAT IN OUR CURRENT SKY...

THEY'RE SIMPLIFIED CONSTEL-LATION DIAGRAMS, AREN'T THEY?

THEY LOOK LIKE HIEROGLYPHICS, BUT... AHA!

...MATCHED UP TO THE JAPANESE SYLLABARY ORDER!

...THEY'RE THE ORIGINAL 48 PTOLEMY CONSTELLATIONS, THE ORIGINS TO OUR 88 CONSTEL-LATIONS...

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

The Argo constellation (panel 4), which is one of Ptolemy's 48, was too big, so it was split up when it was made part of our 88 and became Puppis (poop deck), Carina (keel), Vela (sail), and Malus (mast). Apparently Malus was later turned into Pyxis. Since the ship was broken up into pieces, I'm worried that it ran aground or something.

THERE ARE AS MANY AS THERE ARE STARS IN THE SKY.

THE TIME LIMIT IS 30 MINUTES.

HERE'S YOUR HINT.

A PARODY MANGAKA TRICKED ME...

...INTO COMING TO THIS SCHOOL.

?

?

BUT YOU WERE THE FIRST ONE TO TEACH ME JUST HOW FUN CODES COULD BE.

I AM SUPER INTERESTED!!

NO, IF I SOLVE THIS CODE, THEN YOU PEOPLE...

IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT BATTLE, I WOULDN'T BE HERE RIGHT NOW.

I WOULDN'T BE ANYWHERE.

EVEN NOW, I LOOK UP TO YOU LIKE A STAR IN THE SKY.

IF AMVICIOUS IS THE CHEERLEADER I ASPIRE TO BE...

...THEN YOU'RE THE CIPHER SOLDIER I ASPIRE TO BE.

LET ME INHERIT YOUR DREAM.

GIVE ME A CHANCE TO BECOME LIKE YOU.

SO PLEASE, OMOMURO-SAN...

POOR THING.

IT'S TRUE THAT I SEEM TO HAVE BECOME A BAD EXAMPLE FOR YOU.

...IS WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID. YET YOU YOU PERSIST WITH YOUR TACTLESS HONESTY.

A HALF-ASSED LIE...

...YOU THOUGHT UP ON A WHIM...

I LEAVE THE TIMING UP TO YOU.

IT CAN BE BEFORE YOU LOSE TO HER...

...OR AFTER YOU LOSE TO HER.

I ENCODED THE INTEL I ACQUIRED FROM CLASS E AND SAVED IT HERE.

IN MY STEAD...

...PLEASE DELIVER IT TO THE YOUNG MISS.

199

n/a

HOW ABOUT...

...BERFORE I BEAT TOSHIISAI-SAN?

FINE. IF YOU CAN MANAGE TO BEAT HER, THAT IS.

Yukako Omomuro has logged out.

OR EVEN AFTER YOU BEAT HER.

B199

星に誓う
(ほしにちかう)
貴女の夢を
(あなたのゆめを)
きょらりんへ
(きょらりんへ)
転け転び
(こけまろび)
這わせ折れど
(はわせおれど)
察するエモいを
(さっするえもいを)
矢文添えて
(やぶみそえて)
胸射抜く
(むねいぬく)

I vow to the stars that I will deliver your dream to Kyorarin. Whether I stumble or fall, whether I break or crawl, I will fasten your no-doubt emo message to an arrow and pierce her heart with it.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN YUKAKO ADMIT SHE LOST.

AND IT WAS EVEN AFTER SHE ALREADY SOLVED THE CODE...

"CONVEYING TO PEOPLE WHAT YOU REALLY MEAN."

INDEED, IT'S THE WAY EVERY CIPHER SOLDIER SHOULD BE.

YES, I COMPLETELY AGREE. IT'S EXACTLY AS YOU SAY.

AND NOW ONLY 13 PLAYERS REMAIN.

Professor Kogoe's One-Point Lessons

Sorry for always mindlessly explaining things, but Q120 was based on Q5—the code that Omomuro challenged Iroha with and the first code that Iroha solved without his glasses. The same goes for how it utilizes stars. The constellation logograms were lined up in ABC order, then made into a pangram using the Japanese syllabary. (The argo constellation alone was treated as "arugo.") Personally, I feel like "emo" (*emoi* in Japanese) being written out using the old hiragana letters for "e" and "i" (ゑ and ゐ) showcases Iroha's unique originality.

WHO OUT OF THE REMAINING 13...

Q.

LEVEL.

...WILL END UP BECOMING THE CODE EMPEROR?

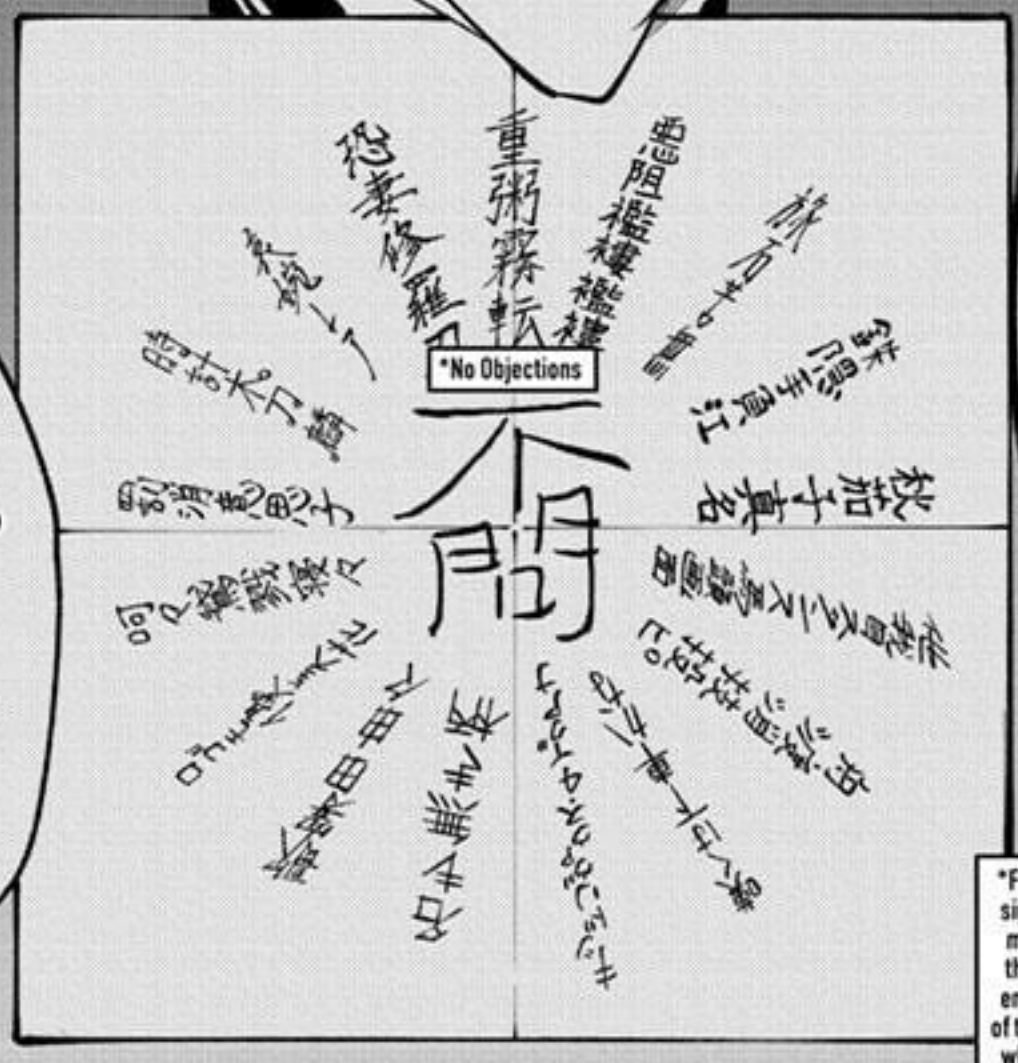
To be continued!

Q.121

LEVEL.★★☆☆☆

...I *PROVIDED YOU* THESE ENCRYPTED SIGNATURES.

SINCE WE BOTH WEAR OUR SLEEVES IN A CUTE FASHION, VICE-CAPTAIN KASURI...



*For this code, the signatures are all made-up names that serve as the encoded versions of the actual people who signed them.

PIKE. MEMBER OF CLASS I-C, THE TELEPATHY CLASS.

PIKE'S SURVIVAL ABILITY...

ROUND-ROBIN SIGNATURES ...?

WHAT IS THIS, TOGENANA-FUSHIGI?!

Professor Kagoe's One-Point Lessons

Round-robin signatures allow people to add their signatures to a document in a way that prevents anyone from figuring out the identity of the ringleader, the group's hierarchy, or who signed first. It also allows the document to display the fact that everyone is in equal agreement.

Chapter 54: A NEARBY DELEGATION IS MORE RELIABLE THAN A DISTANT WAR RESULT

I HEREBY SOLEMNLY SWEAR TO TELL THE TRUTH...

...OBEYING MY CONSCIENCE AND WITHOUT ENCODING ANYTHING.

B250/500
Court of Law Floor

CIPHER ACADEMY

KIDNAPPED BY BRIGANDS WHILE ON AN OVERSEAS TRIP...?

OH MY! WHY WOULD ANYONE CASUALLY GO TO SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE LIKE THAT TO BEGIN WITH?!

AND THEN HE INGRATIATED HIMSELF WITH THE BRIGANDS JUST SO HE COULD BE THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVED?!

UGH! HE'S BASICALLY AN ACCOMPLICE NOW!

Story by Nisioisin Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Outro

ACCORDING TO SOME PRELIMINARY INFORMATION, B250 IS A FLOOR WHERE YOU MUST FACE YOUR OWN CODE.

IT'LL PROBABLY BE A ROUGH FLOOR FOR YOU, IROHAZAKA-KUN.

THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS CASE!

OBJEC-TION!

DEFEN-DANT.

PLEASE STATE YOUR FATHER'S NAME AND OCCUPATION.

DEFEN-DANT?

OBJECTION OVERRULED.

I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT EXHIBIT A.

HOW FORTUNATE YOU ARE. NOW THEN...

POOF

A PARODY MANGA ARTIST.

SHITOYAKA IROHAZAKA.

MY FATHER WASN'T VERY UNDER-STANDING...

...WHEN IT CAME TO THE TOPIC OF BOYS BEING CHEER-LEADERS.

いろは坂四十八ヶ著

応援より応戦

DOES THE CONTENT OF THIS BOOK RECOUNT YOUR EXPERIENCES?

*Book: Shitoyaka Irohazaka / Fighting over Cheering

GOOD.

FWP

ACCORD-ING TO THIS BOOK...

PLEASE ANSWER WITH A "YES" OR "NO."

YES. IT RECOUNTS MY OWN EXPERIENCE.

YES. I WAS FORCED TO.

OHHH, SO IT WAS THE BRIGANDS' FAULT AND YOU BEAR NO RESPONSIBILITY?

...YOU WATCHED ALL YOUR ALLIES DIE.

AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT YOU EVEN CHEERED WHILE IT OCCURRED, CORRECT?

OH NO. IT WASN'T THE BRIGANDS WHO FORCED ME TO DO IT...

...BUT ALL THE OTHER BOYS ON THE TEAM WHO WERE WITH ME.

"ACT LIKE A GIRL."

"SURVIVE ON YOUR OWN, EVEN IF WE ALL DIE."

THAT'S WHAT THE VICE-CAPTAIN SAID.

I CONSIDER THE VICE-CAPTAIN TO BE MY BEST FRIEND, EVEN IF IT MAY BE ONE-SIDED.

JUST LIKE THAT, I WAS *OMITTED.*

EVEN THOUGH...

...I WANTED TO DIE WITH THEM.

AMVICIOUS WILL DEFINITELY COME AND SAVE YOU...

...WHILE WE'RE BEING KILLED.

KREAK

...SO HE PROBABLY CUT OUT THE HEROIC PART I TOLD MY COUNSELOR.

MY FATHER'S GOAL IS TO DRAW PARODIES...

THOUGH YOUR ACCOUNT DIFFERS QUITE A BIT FROM WHAT'S ACTUALLY IN THIS BOOK...

いろは紅閻十八ヶ著
応援より応戦

WHAT A VERY CONVENIENT STORY.

THAT'S ENOUGH, DEFEN-DANT!

PROSE-CUTION!

BAM

SO MUCH SO THAT HE ENROLLED ME IN THIS ACADEMY HE'S TANGENTIALLY CONNECTED TO FOR THE SAKE OF THE SEQUEL...

APPARENTLY, HIS SON'S DISGRACE SOLD LIKE HOTCAKES.

GUILTY!

GUILTY!

GUILTY!

...THE MAXIMUM PENALTY, ON TOP OF THE REMOVAL OF HIS LEADER STATUS AND DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM THE RANKS!

THE DEFENDANT WAS AN ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT TO THE MURDER OF CIVILIANS! THUS, WE SEEK...

...NOW THAT EVERYTHING'S BEEN PUT OUT IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS.

SHE'S RIGHT. THERE'S NOTHING HE COULD POSSIBLY SAY IN HIS DEFENSE UNDER OATH...

NOTHING.

IRO-IRO SHOULD HAVE ALSO KNOWN THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN...

...THAT'S WHY I SAID I'D BE THE DEFENDANT.

THIS IS EVERYONE ASIDE FROM IRO-IRO AND ME, RIGHT?

BUT WHAT ARE THE SIGNATURES FOR?

THEREFORE, I *GATHERED* THESE SIGNATURES IN SECRET.

PIKE'S SURVIVAL ABILITY *WAS* PRECOGNITION, OR RATHER, THE ABILITY TO DECODE THE FUTURE.

AFTER ALL, PIKE *DROPPED OUT OF THE RUNNING* IN THE VERY BEGINNING...

!

I *ENTRUST-ED* THE DETAILS OF ITS USE TO YOU.

THIS WAS A WRITTEN PLEDGE ACCEPTING IROHA IROHA-ZAKA...

...AS THE LEADER, *REGARDLESS OF HIS PAST.*

...A PLEA FOR PARDON DUE TO EXTENUATING CIRCUM-STANCES!

THAT'S IT! IN OTHER WORDS, THESE ROUND-ROBIN SIGNATURES CAN BE USED AS...

RATTLE ガタ

YOUR HONOR!

THE DEFENSE WOULD NOW LIKE TO SUBMIT EXHIBIT B!

...SO SHE MUST HAVE FORESEEN THIS!

IT PROBABLY WASN'T EXACTLY PRECOGNITION... CLASS C'S LEADING PRIVATE IS THE LITTLE SISTER OF THE PERSON IRO-IRO'S INDEBTED TO...

SO...SHOULD WE ALL BAND TOGETHER AND PROTECT HIM AGAIN?

WITHOUT...HIS PERMISSION?

...

EXCUSE ME.

O WHAM コン

DEFENSE?

JUST LIKE THAT, I WAS *OMITTED.*

EVEN THOUGH ...

...I WANTED TO DIE WITH THEM.

IF THE DEFENDANT IS FOUND GUILTY...

SORRY, BUT WE HAVE NO FURTHER EVIDENCE OR QUESTIONS.

PLEASE JUST ALLOW ME TO DECLARE THIS...

...I WILL DIE WITH HIM.

I WON'T LET HIM DIE ALONE.

I ALSO WON'T LET HIM SURVIVE ALONE.

SHE NEVER *HAD* TO.

SHE ISN'T GOING TO USE THE SIGNATURES?

HUH? IS THAT REALLY ALL SHE HAD TO SAY?

B250

THAT *WAS* ONLY A PIECE OF PAPER...

...MEANT TO LIGHT A FIRE UNDER THOSE CUTE SLEEVES.

WE HAVE REACHED A VERDICT.

...IS IT *POSSIBLE TO DROWN* DEKIAI-CHAN.

THAT A.I. COURT *COULDN'T* HAVE BEEN OVERCOME THROUGH DOCUMENTS.

ONLY BY LOVE, NOT STRATEGY...

KNOCK カラン カラン KNOCK

...TO SPEND THE REST OF HER LIFE WITH HIM!

FURTHER-MORE, THE DEFENDANT'S SPONSOR IS HEREBY COMMANDED...

THE DEFENDANT WILL HEREBY RECEIVE AN UNLIMITED SUSPENDED SENTENCE.

MELTY!

MELTY!

MELTY!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE WITH ME, EN-CHAN.

I SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I LOVE YOU.

SORRY, IRO-IRO.

I SHOULD HAVE ASKED YOU FOR PERMIS-SION...

Seppun Zakuroguchi's One-Point Lessons

Glasses weapons collect data on those who wear them, which is then used to create the Cipher Academy metaverse's dungeon. In other words, the logic here is that Dekiai-chan has difficulty reading the motives of those who don't wear glasses weapons. Outliers could be one reason why there are issues with entrusting court cases to A.I.

HEE HEE HEE! NO, NO.

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE THERE WAS ONE UPRIGHT PERSON IN EACH CLASS.

AN IRREGULAR STATEMENT CAUSED THE ALGORITHMS TO BUG OUT.

IS THIS THE REASON WHY YOU REMOVED ENSA KASURI FROM YOUR PROOF OF CONCEPT EXPERIMENTS?

...WHO CAN WORK HARD EVEN IF THEY AREN'T THE HERO.

AN UPRIGHT PERSON...

NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE "SCRAMBLE FOR THE PRIZE" CLIMAX.

WELL, WE'VE MOVED PAST THE ROGUELIKE CLIMAX.

*Note: This is a list of floors 251–498 in the Cipher Academy metaverse.

B499/500
Round Table
Floor

Conscience Under-the-Table Byu Hanagoromo

Undercover Agent Shitai Kubinashi

Popularity Monster Rokaku Yosaimura

Classically Beautiful Girl Anonymity Requested

Noble Villainess Kyora Toshusai

Trauma Producer Tayu Yugata

Little Sister of the Hero Invalides Yonakiuguisu

Surprise Ninja Akina Namasu

Grade-Wide Leader Iroha Irohazaka

Overloaded Sloth Ensa Kasuri

Common Sense in a Suit Quokka Eteshite

Insomniac Tonbo Rikukeito

Dreamless Goof-Off Shitsuke Koshibai

...MOST OF US GOT OUR BUTTS HERE AT THE SAME TIME... NO WONDER THESE SEATS FEEL SO UN-COMFORTABLE.

DESPITE US ALL STARTING AT DIFFERENT FLOORS...

...WE ENDED UP GETTING MANIPULATED SO THAT...

...IT APPEARS THAT OUR WARM FRIENDSHIPS WILL COME TO AN END NOW.

BUT SADLY...

...WILL BE REQUIRED TO LOG OUT.

ONLY TWO PEOPLE CAN CONTINUE ON TO B500.

IN ADDITION TO THAT, ALL OTHER PLAYERS...

WELL, YOU HEARD HER, BYU.

GOT ANY GOOD GAMES IN MIND...

...FOR DECIDING WHO WILL GET TO GO ON TO THE FINAL FLOOR?

OF COURSE I DO.

IT'S A SPECIAL ENCOUNTER EVENT...

Q.122

LEVEL:★★★★★★

A CODE BATTLE ROYALE...

...I CALL...

...ROUND TABLE CALCULATOR FLASH MENTAL MATH!

To be continued!

THEN, THE 16TH PLAYER HAS TO SAY THE TOTAL SUM OF THE NUMBERS.

FOR *ROUND TABLE CALCULATOR FLASH MENTAL MATH*...

...PLAYERS GATHER UP IN A CIRCLE AND ONE BY ONE CALL OUT NATURAL NUMBERS THAT ARE COMPOSED OF THREE DIGITS OR LESS.

BUT FOR A CIPHER SOLDIER, ARITHMETIC AND MEMORIZATION ARE BASIC SKILLS.

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S FLASH MENTAL MATH PLUS KOKON TOUZAI.

WE'LL REPEAT THIS UNTIL WE'RE DOWN TO TWO PEOPLE.

HOWEVER, FROM ROUND TWO ONWARD, YOU WILL ALSO HAVE TO LOG OUT IF YOU CALL OUT A NUMBER THAT'S ALREADY BEEN USED.

IF THE AMOUNT IS WRONG, THEY HAVE TO LOG OUT. IF THE AMOUNT IS CORRECT, THEY CONTINUE ON TO ROUND TWO.

Note: *Kokon Touzai* is a word game where people create a theme, such as stations on a train line, and then people call out words related to that theme until someone accidentally uses a word that's already been used or can't think up a new one.

HA HA HA! TRUE!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE'RE GOING TO PLAY THIS GAME...

...WHILE DANCING AT THE SAME TIME.



CIPHER ACADEMY

Chapter 55:
HORNETS KEEP DANCING UNTIL THEY'RE 100

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

565

844

203

518

519

628

276

381

7,126!

734

183

198

810

210

946

111

...

CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, BUT...

SERIOUSLY, GOOD THING I DROPPED DEAD WHEN I DID.

WHY AREN'T THEY TRYING TO USE SINGLE DIGITS IN THE FIRST TURN TO SEE HOW THINGS GO?

...WOULD END LIKE THIS.

I WISH ALL WARS AROUND THE WORLD...

HEE HEE HEE. AND IF I WAS, THEN I'D HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART...

...AND START MAKING INSTRUMENTS INSTEAD OF WEAPONS.

HEH HEH... HOW UNLIKE YOU.

IF THAT TRULY HAPPENED, YOU'D BE OUT OF A JOB.

696

888

999

50

8

10,913!

271

836

Byu Hanagoromo's One-Point Lesson

When someone calls out a wrong answer, the next person will call out the first number for the next turn. Incidentally, Flash Mental Math is a game where players use an abacus to mentally calculate 15 numbers shown in a row at high speeds on a monitor. Round Table Calculator Flash Mental Math mixes that with the "flash mob" activity.

Ensa Kasuri has logged out.

...I'LL BE THE CODE EMPEROR!

ONCE THIS BATTLE'S OVER...

YEAH!

ONCE THIS BATTLE'S OVER...

IRO-IRO!

YEAH, THIS GAME IS ACTUALLY PRETTY HARD.

ONE PERSON FINALLY DROPPED OUT ON THE 21ST TURN.

...

FIVE THOUSAND... UHHH...

CREATING SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT THAN SOLVING IT, YOU KNOW.

THE GAME'S CREATOR LOGGED OUT AFTER CALLING OUT A PREVIOUSLY USED NUMBER.

Byu Hanagoromo has logged out.

GIVE.

Akina Namasu has logged out.

Shitsuke Koshibai has logged out.

Quokka Eteshite has logged out.

BY GIVING UP DURING THE INTERVAL, SHE BECAME THE EIGHTH OF THE EIGHT PEOPLE REMAINING (MAKING HER THE PERMANENT ANSWERER).

IT'S THAT WAVERING "TAYUTA-UN" LUCK OF HERS.

OH, TAYUTAN DROPPED OUT?

FAREWELL FOR NOW.

FOR ME AS WELL, KYO— I MEAN MA'AM.

Tayu Yugata has logged out.

GOOD WORK. THAT WAS FUN.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE GOT TO PLAY TOGETHER SO MUCH.

Invalides Yonakiuguisu has logged out.

Tonbo Rikukeito has logged out.

Shitai Kubinashi has logged out.



B499

KYA HA HA. IT STILL LOOKS LIKE...

...HE'S HAVING FUN!

KYA HA!

I'M SO PROUD TO SEE THE FOUR FINALISTS FROM THE CLASS A LEADING PRIVATE BATTLE STILL STANDING! ♪

AND THE PERMANENT ANSWERER (THE FOURTH OUT OF FOUR PEOPLE) IS IROHAZAKA-KUN.

I CAN ONLY THINK THAT THEY LET ME WIN...

BACK THEN, I WAS HONESTLY AT THEIR MERCY.

...THAT I CAN COMPETE AGAINST THEM ON EQUAL FOOTING!

BUT NOW, I'M SO HAPPY...

777

717

857

277

271...

AH!

OOPS, 271 WAS ALREADY CALLED OUT.

THEY'VE GOT TO BE GETTING TIRED BY NOW.

NO, ANONYMITY REQUESTED HAS ONLY BEEN CALLING OUT NUMBERS THAT HAS A 7.

THE RHYTHM OF THE DANCING PROBABLY INFLUENCED HER TO DO THAT.

...WITH THE REST OF OUR CLASSMATES AND WAIT FOR YOU UNDER THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS!

I'LL COOK UP SOME BAUMKUCHEN ...

SNAP

Rokaku Yosaimura has logged out.

WHO AM I TO TRY AND PROTECT SUCH AMAZING KIDS?

THAT WASN'T FAIR.

SHUP

AND *THAT*...

...WAS THE REASON SHE LOST.

MOST LIKELY. I'D DIE THE SAME WAY.

THAT BEAUTIFUL GIRL THOUGHT IT'D MAKE THE REST OF THE GAME EASIER...

...IF SHE KNOCKED YOSAIMURA OUT BEFORE IROHAZAKA COLLAPSED, DIDN'T SHE?



25
14
206
27
167
57
42
64
151
168!
3
5
7
9
946!
SURE WAS FUN COMPETING WITH YOU, THOUGH...
1
HEH HEH HEH. DANCING ASIDE...
...SEEMS LIKE YOUR MEMORY AND MATH ABILITIES ARE REACHING THEIR LIMIT, IROHAZAKA.

KREAK...

KREAK...

?!

I WAS WRONG?! NO WAY!

I'M SURE THE TOTAL SUM WAS 946—

!

...IS THE NUMBER THAT IROHAZAKA-KUN CALLED OUT IN THE *FIRST ROUND.*

THE *SUM* OF 946...

THE RULE WAS THAT YOU CAN'T CALL OUT A *NUMBER THAT'S ALREADY USED,* CORRECT?

...WOULD BE SO LIKE IROHAZAKA...

TRUE... CAPITALIZING ON THAT BLIND SPOT OF THE SUM BEING A NUMBER THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN CALLED OUT...

...TO ADD ONE TO THE NUMBER BEFORE HANDING IT OVER TO YOU.

IROHAZAKA-KUN'S THE ONE WHO ASKED ME WITH HIS EYES...

JUST SO YOU KNOW, IT WASN'T MY IDEA.

BUT INSTEAD OF ME, IROHAZAKA CHOSE TO GO ON TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP WITH HIS RIVAL.

WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER TO DROP TOSHIISAI WITH THAT STRATEGY, THOUGH...

...ANSWERED HIS CHALLENGE.

AND TOSHIISAI...

...

YOU'RE MAKING ME JEALOUS NOW.

Anonymity Requested has logged out.

IROHA IROHAZAKA AND KYORA TOSHIISAI...

...ARE CONTINUING ON TO THE FINAL FLOOR!

To be continued!

RATTLE
カタ…

I'VE WON EITHER WAY.

MEAN-ING...

WELL, KYORA-SAN AND IROHA ARE THE ONLY ONES LEFT.

OH MY.

YOU AREN'T GOING TO WATCH THE FINAL BATTLE?

...KOGOE?

SO YOU'RE FINE WITH THIS...

Prof. Kogoe's One-Point Lesson

Yes.

CIPHER ACADEMY

The Final Floor

B500/500 Morgue Floor

Chapter 56:

CURSE A WAR, AND YOU MUST DIG TWO GRAVES

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

WHAT'S WRONG? CAN'T READ THE EXPRESSIONS ON THE SKULLS?

LOOKS MORE LIKE A CATACOMB THAN A MORGUE TO ME.

IS THIS DUE TO SOME SORT OF VIRTUAL-SPECIFIC LIMITATION?

CONVERSELY, MANY ENEMY SOLDIERS WILL DIE IF WE DO BREAK THEM.

IF WE FAIL TO BREAK CODES, MANY OF OUR ALLIES WILL DIE.

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM— ORIBE-SAN?

HEH HEH!

WE WON'T BE DECLARED INNOCENT JUST BECAUSE WE'RE ON THE HOME FRONT.

I'm already 16 too.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME THE EMPEROR, YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF THAT.

...AND NOT JUST BECAUSE WE'RE SURROUNDED BY SKELETONS.

FWIP

NOW THEN, I'D LIKE TO USE THIS TO SETTLE THINGS BETWEEN US...

Q.123

LEVEL.★★★★★

COMPLETELY WRONG INTRO WARS.

自己紹介✖ワード

INTRODUCTORY CROSSWORDS... OR RATHER...

...BUT WE'LL ACTUALLY BE DOING THE SAME THING AS BEFORE.

I SAID "RATHER"...

THAT IS TO SAY, THIS WILL BE A TEST OF OUR ENCODING POWER...

...AS WELL AS OUR *ABILITY TO GATHER INTEL* OUTSIDE OF WARTIME.

EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT WE'LL BE USING THE OTHER PERSON'S WORDS...

...INSTEAD OF OUR OWN.

...THIS IS THE MOST FITTING LAST GAME FOR US, RIGHT?

WHY IS THERE A BOY AT CIPHER ACADEMY?

IROHA IROHA-ZAKA.

SHOULD INCLUDE THE "KUN" SUFFIX, RIGHT?

THAT'S RIGHT. THINKING BACK TO THE FIRST TIME WE MET...

SO I'M GOING TO WRITE AN INTRODUCTION FOR YOU, TOSHUSAI-SAN...

...AND YOU'RE GOING TO WRITE MINE?

...OMOMURO-SAN ENTRUSTED TO ME.

BEFORE THAT, I WANT TO GIVE YOU THIS ITEM...

199

n/a

KLAK

カト

SHE STILL HASN'T GOTTEN OVER THAT...?

SOUNDS ELE-MENTARY TO ME. I'M GAME.

BUT...

THERE'S ONLY *ONE THING* I WANT TO PUT ON THE LINE FOR THIS BATTLE AGAINST YOU.

I THOUGHT ABOUT BETTING IT ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS GAME, BUT I CHANGED MY MIND.

IN THAT CASE, I ALSO PROMISE...

...THAT IF I WIN, I WILL RESCUE OBORO-SAN FROM THE PRISON FLOOR...

...AND GUARANTEE THAT KICK-ATTACK PLANNING WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GIRLS FROM THIS POINT ON.

I'M ONLY BETTING MY PRIDE ON THIS.

COM-
PLETELY
WRONG
INTRO
WARS!

IROHA
IROHAZAKA
VERSUS
KYORA
TOSHUSAI!

CODE
EMPEROR
CHAMPION-
SHIP...

EITHER WAY...

...THEY'VE BOTH CHANGED SINCE THEN.

THE KEY IS FIGURING OUT HOW MUCH TO CHANGE FROM THE ANSWERS IN APRIL.

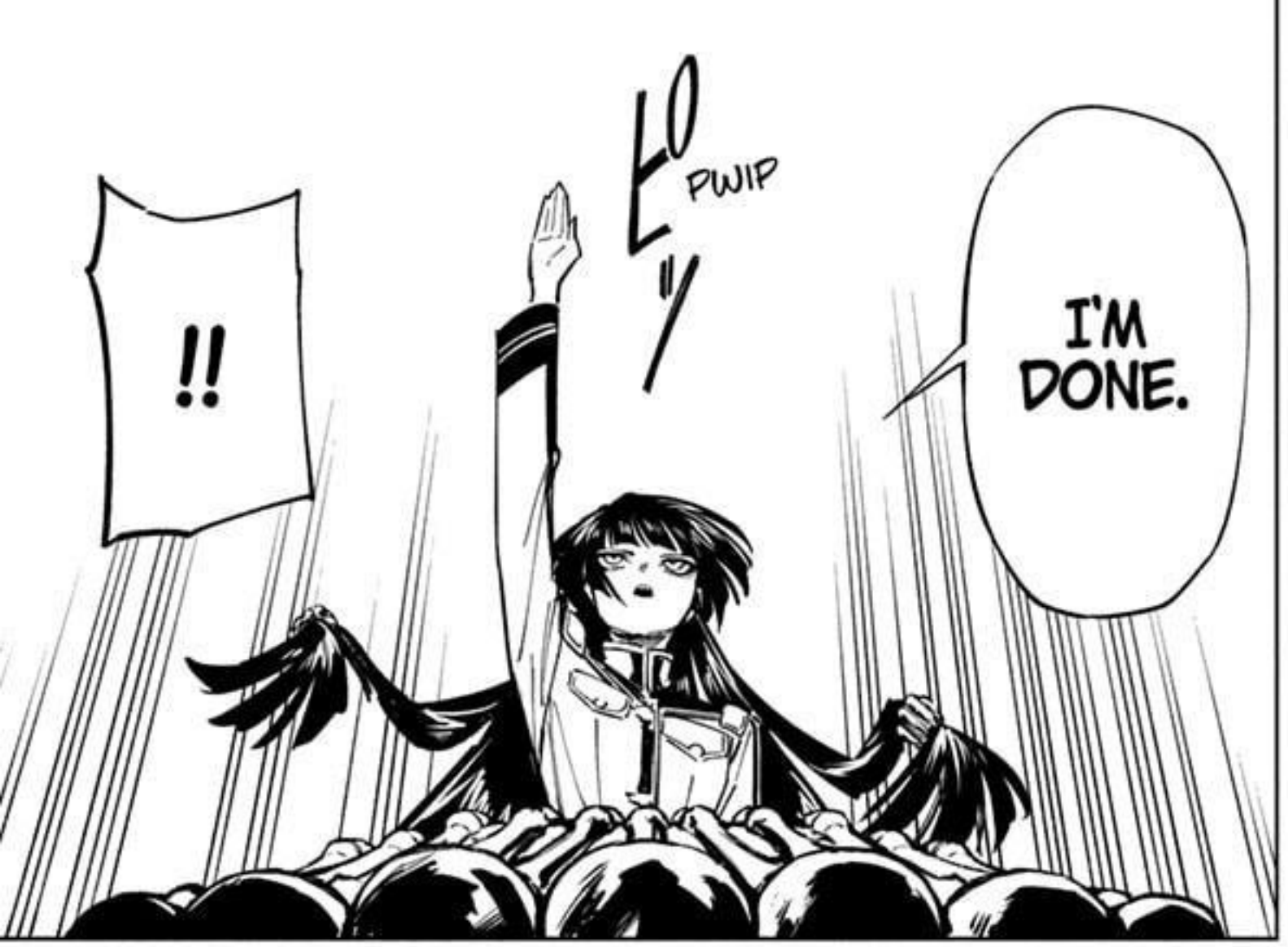
CAN'T YOU JUST WIN IF YOU KEEP INSISTING THAT THE CROSSWORD'S WRONG?

THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THEY'RE BETTING THEIR PRIDE.

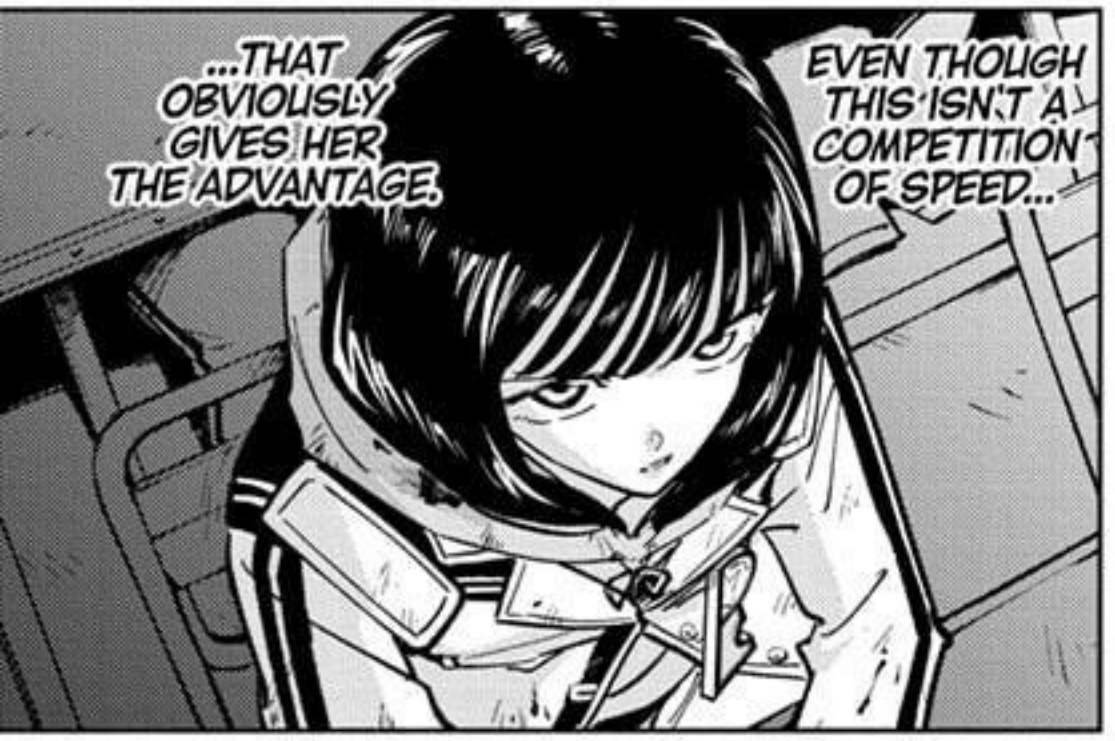
Lord Nohime's One-Point Lesson

Since Professor Kogoe is away, I'll explain instead. The skeleton crossword that is a variation on the traditional crossword puzzle. That's what Kyorarin had in mind during her explanation. The idea is to be able to *see through* the opponent.











Horizontal Clue

①好きな 関係性 は？ 縁ちゃんといろいろ
②尊い 同盟 は？ 寸暇そぼろ享楽
③共感する 地雷 は？ 尊敬の破壊
④言われたい 褒め言葉 は？ とてもあざやか
⑤欲しい 生存能力 は？ 第六感
⑥落ち着く 立ち位置 は？ 安石
⑦思い出の 解読法 は？ 顔色
⑧推薦する 五十音表 は？ いろは
⑨大切な サークル は？ チア
⑩重要な 1文字 は？ い

Vertical Clue

☆ What is your name? IROHA IROHAZAKA

Q1 Favorite relationship
Q2 Respected alliance
Q3 A mine you identify with
Q4 Words of praise you want to hear
Q5 A survival ability you want
Q6 A position that calms you down
Q7 A decoding method you remember
Q8 A syllabary you recommend
Q9 A precious club
Q10 An important syllable

☆

①	え	ん	ろ	せ	ん	と	い	ろ	い	ろ
②	す	ん	か	そ	ぼ	ろ	き	よ	ら
③	そ	ん	げ	ん	の	は	か	い	
④	と	て	も	あ	ざ	や	か		
⑤	だ	い	ろ	っ	か	ん			
⑥	か	な	め	い	し				
⑦	か	お	い	ろ					
⑧	い	ろ	は						
⑨	ろ	あ							
⑩	い								

A1 En-chan and Iro-Iro
A2 Sunka-Soboro-Kyora
A3 Destruction of dignity
A4 You're very vivid
A5 Sixth sense
A6 Center
A7 Complexion
A8 Iroha
A9 Cheerleading
A10 i

DEFINITELY LIVING UP TO HER TITLE OF NOBLE VILLAINESS.

MY, WHAT CAREFUL ANSWERS! AND SHE EVEN SHOWED HOW CONFIDENT SHE WAS BY LEAVING NUMBER FOUR THE SAME.

SHE'S FAR MORE TWISTED THAN I AM.

I'M DONE TOO. WOULD YOU MIND LOOKING AT IT?

IT'S SO DETAILED.

I'M GLAD YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW THIS MUCH ABOUT ME.

ALTHOUGH BACK WHEN YOU FIRST ENROLLED, I WASN'T THE LEAST BIT CURIOUS ABOUT HOW I LOOKED...

...FROM YOUR...

OF COURSE I WILL.

Q.124

LEVEL.★★☆☆☆

Q1 Favorite relationship
Q2 Respected old friend
Q3 A rival you identify with
Q4 A childhood friend you want to be told you have
Q5 A little sister you want
Q6 A way of speaking that calms you down
Q7 A friend you remember
Q8 A thing you hate that you recommend
Q9 A precious attendant
Q10 An important plural

Horizontal Clue

①好きな 関係性 は？ えてめぞたてすをやい
②尊い 旧友 は？ へよおていぐけげう
③共感する ライバル は？ きばとささそあさ
④言われたい 幼馴染 は？ そやいやいおそ
⑤欲しい 妹 は？ Mさゃいそを
⑥落ち着く 口癖 は？ はむこほね
⑦思い出の 友達 は？ あれあれ
⑧推薦する 苦手 は？ んかち
⑨大切な 側近 は？ ざゅ
⑩重要な 視数形 は？ よ

Vertical Clue

☆ What is your name? Lzpsb Uptivtbj

☆

①	え	て	め	ぞ	た	て	す	を	や	い
②	へ	よ	お	゛	て	い	ぐ	け	げ	う
③	き	ば	と	さ	さ	そ	あ	さ		
④	そ	や	い	ゃ	い	お	゛	そ		
⑤	M	さ	ゃ	い	そ	を				
⑥	は	む	こ	ほ	ね					
⑦	あ	れ	あ	れ						
⑧	ん	か	ち							
⑨	ざ	ゅ								
⑩	よ									

A1 Dpnqbusjpu
A2 Lphpf Ipsbhbuphf
A3 Tijubj Lvcjobtij
A4 Zvhbub Ubzvubo
A5 N. Tivubo
A6 "Ijnftbnb't ____"
A7 Jsp-Jsp
A8 Esbhpogmjft
A9 Hsboeqb
A10 zp







14

0

49

THE EMPEROR'S CODE... IT'S THE CAESAR CIPHER.

I HAD NAMASU-SAN TEACH ME HOW TO USE IT ON THE WAY HERE.

BUT I KEPT IT SIMPLE AND ONLY SLID EVERYTHING UP ONE.

NO. WHY...

...DID YOU *ENCODE YOUR ANSWERS?*

HUH? WELL, BECAUSE I RESPECT YOU...

...AND THINK YOU'RE ONE RANK ABOVE ME.

...

WHY?

BUT IMPLEMENTING A CODE THAT NO ONE EVER ASKED FOR...

...MADE ME FALL BEHIND.

FWSH...

UH... WELL, AN INTRO-DUCTION IS ONE THING...

...BUT SINCE I HAD TO WRITE AN INTRODUCTION TO THE INNER WORKINGS OF A *FRIEND* THIS TIME, I FIGURED I HAD TO OBFUSCATE IT SOMEHOW.

NOT EVEN ANY OF US FROM THE INFORMATION-SCRAMBLING CLASS.

THAT'S RIGHT. NOT A SINGLE PERSON HAS DONE THAT SO FAR...

RATTLE
ガタッ

YOU WIN, IROHAZAKA-KUN.

THIS ATTLE S—

BUT I WIN...

...IN TERMS OF *RESIGNATION SPEED.*

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, ZAKURO-GUCHI-SAN.

HE ANSWERED A CODE WITH A CODE.

BUT WHY...? DESPITE WHAT SHE SAID...

...ALL HE DID WAS ENCODE HIS ANSWERS USING THE MOST PRIMITIVE METHOD POSSIBLE, RIGHT?

AND IF THIS WAS DECODING A WILL, IT'D JUST BE POINTLESS.

RRMBBB ゴゴゴ

...IRORIN.

I CALLED YOU AN ENEMY, BUT YOU STILL SAID I'M YOUR FRIEND.

THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DECLARE YOU THE VICTOR...

...TO END WARS...

Kyora Toshusai has logged out.

PERHAPS THAT'S ALL IT REALLY TAKES...

...HAS BEEN FULLY EXPLORED!

THE CIPHER ACADEMY METAVERSE...

AND THE ONE WHO MANAGED TO EXCAVATE THE 50 BILLION MORGUE CRYPTO-CURRENCY IS...

...THE CODE EMPEROR, IROHA IROHAZAKA!

To be continued!

KOGOE...

YOU'RE ALLOWED TO USE IT.

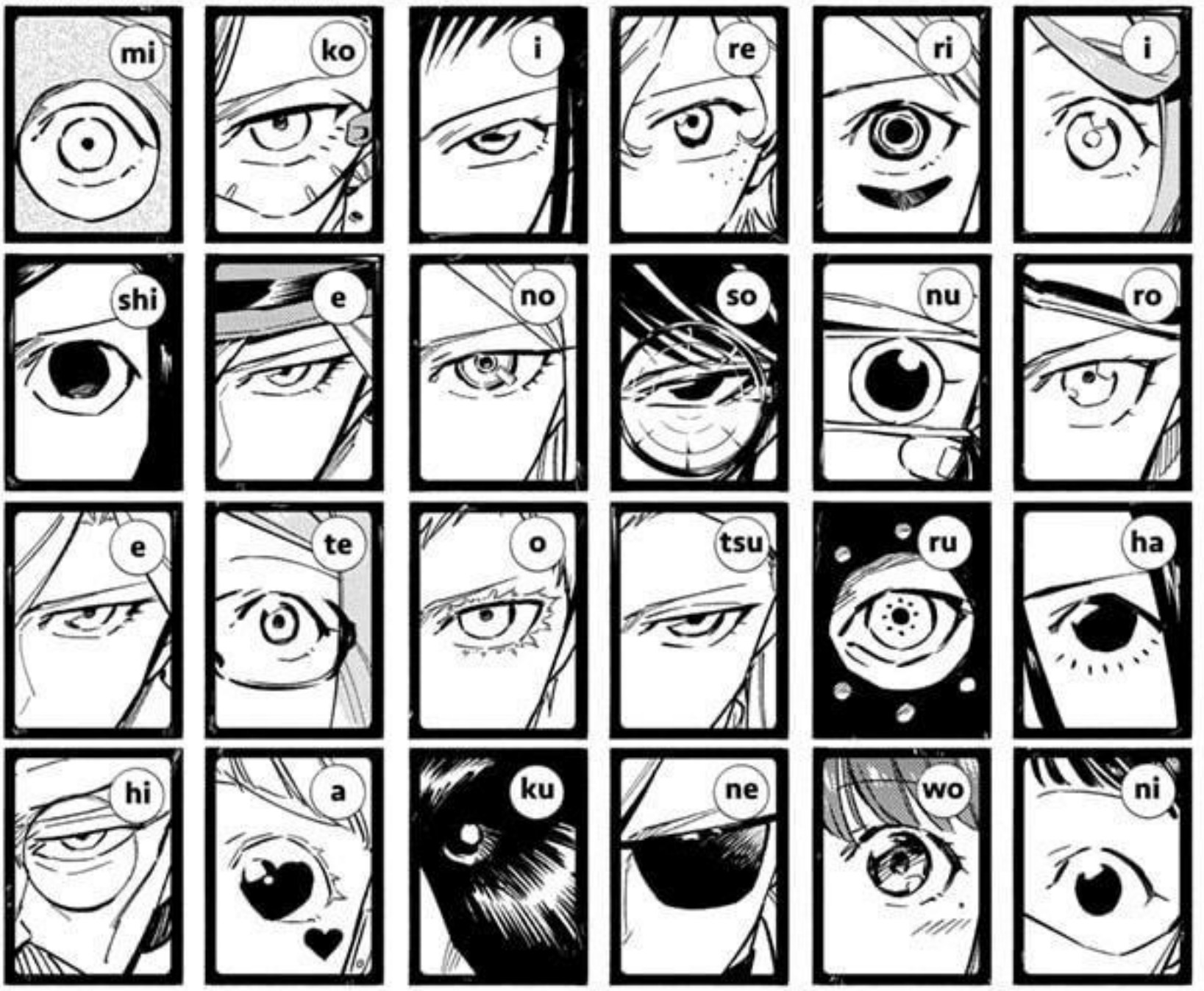
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T, THOUGH.

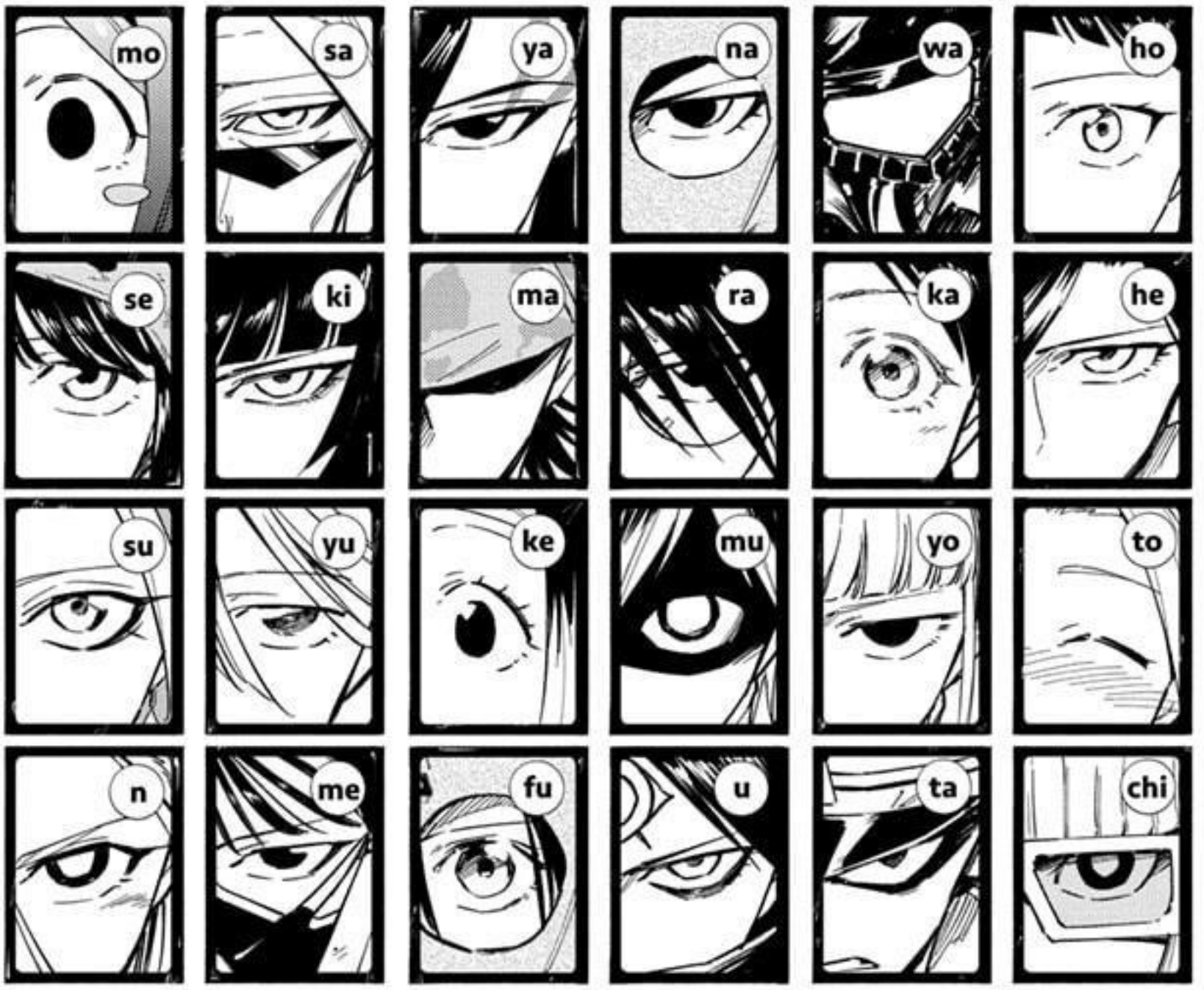
THIS IS YOUR FINAL ONE-POINT LESSON.

LET US BEGIN, IROHA.

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey Lettering: Steve Outro

CIPHER ACADEMY





Chapter 57: The Word "Code" Doesn't Exist in the Emperor's Dictionary

...AS IRONIC AS IT MAY SEEM, PRAYERS FOR A WORLD WITHOUT WAR WERE LOADED INTO IT.

MORGUE, A WAR-DAMAGE CRYPTOCURRENCY WITH A VALUE THAT INCREASES BASED ON THE NUMBER OF WARS.

CAN'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY, BUT...

I HEARD ABOUT THAT... AND THAT'S WHY HAKANAGE-SAN MIXED IN...

...A COMPUTER VIRUS MADE TO LOOK LIKE THIS ONE-MORGUE COIN...

...IN ORDER TO PREVENT HYPERINFLATION.

MY DREAM WAS TO DO MY BEST TO REMOVE ALL THE VALUE FROM THIS INHERITANCE OF SUSPICIOUS ORIGIN.

BUT IN REALITY, THE RATE OF MORGUE JUST KEPT SKYROCKETING.

...

THIS SCHOOL SURE HAS A LOT OF AMAZING STUDENTS.

THE UNITED STATES HAS ITS OWN COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE UNIT.

AH... THAT'S RIGHT. I JUST HEARD ABOUT THAT MYSELF. SEEMS LIKE SHAKUNAGE HAKANAGE...

...WAS ACTUALLY AN AGENT FROM THE NSA, WHICH IS WHAT SERVED AS THE MODEL FOR CIPHER ACADEMY.

...I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COMPLETE B250.

HEE HEE HEE. I COULD'VE MAYBE CLEARED IT UP TO BIOO, BUT...

...WHILE THEY AIMED TO STEAL THE THRONE.

THERE'S EVEN A MASTER-MIND WHO LET SOMEONE ELSE COM-PLETE THE GAME...

"THEY ALL LOOK SO *RIGHTEOUS*..."

"...BUT HOW SERIOUS ARE THEY WHEN THEY SHAKE HANDS?"

IT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS FIVE.

SOME KIND OF INTERNATIONAL MEETING WAS BEING BROADCAST ON THE CRT TV THAT HAD BEEN SET UP IN THE TRASH DUMP...

...AND THE THOUGHT JUST SORT OF CAME TO ME.

ALL I DID WAS CREATE A 100 PERCENT ACCURATE POLYGRAPH TEST...

...AND SELL IT FOR CHEAP.

IT WAS BASICALLY A LIE DETECTOR.

THAT LED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST GLASSES WEAPON.

"COLD GOVERNMENT," A.K.A. CG.

IF EVERYONE HAD BEEN HONEST, THERE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY PROBLEMS...

IN THE END, IT DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF WARS IN THE WORLD.

AND THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS TO EVERYONE.

...BUT PEOPLE ARE ALL LIARS.

HAHA-KURA'S MOTHER DIED IN THE BATTLE-FIELD.

BUT DUE TO THE NATURE OF HER JOB, SHE WASN'T EVEN GIVEN A GRAVE.

BOTA-YAMA, WHOSE FATHER WAS ACCUSED OF INSTI-GATING FOREIGN AGGRES-SION...

...ENROLLED IN CIPHER ACADEMY AS PENANCE.

KARIGANE, THE GIRL DETECTIVE...

...REGRET-TED THE FACT THAT DECODING HAS LED TO A LARGE INFLUX IN DEATH ROW PRISONERS.

MOKU-MOKUREN WAS RAISED AS IF SHE HERSELF WAS A PLUSHIE...

...AND CAN'T LET GO OF THE STUFFED ANIMAL SHE CLINGS TO.

MEANWHILE, SHUTAN HAS TO GO ON PRETENDING TO HAVE AMNESIA...

...DUE TO HER FAMILY'S CIRCUM-STANCES.

KASURI'S PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE ANY ISSUES LIKE THE OTHERS.

DESPITE STILL BEING QUITE YOUNG, NOHIME-SAN HAS THE FULL RESPONSI-BILITY OF THE MORGUE ON HER SHOUL-DERS.

EVEN I SYMPATHIZE WITH HER AT THIS POINT.

NOT ALL OF THE CHARGES PUT ON UMITSU-BAME WERE FALSE.

SHE'S CURRENTLY A FUGITIVE CHARGED WITH THE CRIME OF "LOOKING THE WAY YOU WANT," WHICH HAS EARNED HER A SENTENCE OF 50 BILLION YEARS.

TO YORO-KAWA, WHO ONCE HAD TO SUCK DOWN WASTE-WATER ...

...HER CURRENT FOOD ENVIRON-MENT MUST FEEL LIKE HEAVEN.

YOSAI-MIURA'S BIG BROTHER SUNK ALONG WITH AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER...

...BUT THE INCI-DENT WAS COVERED UP AND NEVER MADE PUBLIC.

NAMASU'S DREAM IS AKIN TO THAT OF SUICIDE IN THAT SHE WANTS TO STOP BEING A NINJA.

SHE SAYS BEING A FAKE I.D. DEALER SUITS HER.

THE CIPHER SOLDIER WHO MAMUSHI-HISHIMEKI LOOKED UP TO DIED WHILE BEING TORTURED ...

...AFTER GIVING UP ALL THEIR SECRETS.

OUR GOOF-OFF WAS ONCE A VICTIM OF EDU-CATIONAL ABUSE AS A CHILD.

BUT I SUPPOSE YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT CONSIDERING HER NAME IS "SHITSUKE."

YOU ALREADY HEARD ABOUT OBORO'S SITUATION, COR-RECT?

AND THAT SHE WAS PLACED IN A HELLISH DETENTION CENTER?

HEE HEE HEE... ANONYMITY REQUESTED IS THE ONE PERSON I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT.

I'M CERTAIN THAT SHE ISN'T NSA, THOUGH.

*Note: "Shitsuke" means spartan training or upbringing.

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT EVERYONE'S THE *SAME* AS KYORARIN AND I...

...SINCE THEY ALL HAVE A REASON TO WANT THE 50 BILLION MORGUE?

NO, I'M NOT.

EVEN THOUGH *WHAT THEY HAVEN'T TOLD US* IS THE IMPORTANT THING HERE...

...IS NOTHING BUT A HUGE, SHAMEFUL LIE.

...WHAT I'M REALLY TRYING TO SAY IS THAT THIS IS ALL A *PEACETIME* TRAGEDY.

THE IDEA OF PEACE AS A RESULT OF ENDING ALL WARS...

...THAT SMALL COUNTRY WOULD STILL BE HAPPILY INTACT.

AND IF KYORA-SAN HADN'T GIVEN THOSE CHILDREN THE *TOY GUNS*...

YOU WERE CAPTURED BY THOSE REBELS AFTER A WAR ENDED, RIGHT?

...WE'RE BETTER OFF SINCE WE AREN'T AT WAR.

I WON'T LET ANYONE DARE SAY THAT...

PUTTING AN END TO WAR DOESN'T STOP THE TRAGEDIES.

THEREFORE, THE IMPORTANT THING HERE IS TO TWIST THE DIAL...

...AND PERMANENTLY CONTROL WAR.

...DISTILLING THEM SO ONLY THE GOOD PARTS OF WAR REMAIN.

YEAH. RATHER THAN STOP WAR, I WANT TO FREEZE THINGS AS THEY ARE...

THAT'S WHY YOU USED THE WORD "STOP"...

...INSTEAD OF "END," RIGHT?

*Book: Decoding

DOES SHE ACTUALLY THINK *GOOD PARTS* OF WARS EXIST?

I SUPPOSE EVEN GENIUSES HAVE THEIR CHILDISH MOMENTS.

ACTING LIKE A VILLAIN IS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP HER HEART INTACT...

...IN LIGHT OF THE SIMPLE FACT THAT SHE DOUBLED ALL THE WORLD'S WARS.

Q.125

LEVEL.★★★★★★







DO THAT...

...AND YOU CAN BECOME A HERO WITHOUT NEEDING WARS.



TH-THAT'S SO YOU!

BUT THERE'S NO WAY...

WAIT... YEAH, I'M A GENIUS, SO I MIGHT BE ABLE TO PULL IT OFF.

I SIMPLY HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT YET...

...BUT IT'S BASICALLY THE SAME THING IN THE END...

AHH! NO, IT'S NOT THE SAME AT ALL! IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!

BUT IF WE WERE TO DO THAT, WE'D NEED BOTH A BUDGET AND TIME...

AND WE'D NEED TO PUT MORE PEOPLE ON IT...

OF COURSE IT'S WORTH ALL THAT...

IT'S EVEN WORTH RISKING ONE'S OWN LIFE!

BUT! AT THIS POINT, DO I REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT?!

STOP IT. WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME WITH SUCH AN HONEST EXPRESSION?

DON'T FORGIVE ME! ATTACK ME! CURSE ME! HATE ME! LOOK DOWN ON ME!

I'M THE MASTERMIND WHO MANIPULATED THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY!

GYA HA!

TIME FOR THE MASTERMIND TO RAISE THE WHITE FLAG, KOGOE-CHI.

...BUT I DIDN'T KNOW SHE ACTUALLY THOUGHT SHE'D TRICKED ME.

I KNEW THAT ALL SHE EVER DID WAS LIE...

WERE WE REALLY MANIPU-LATED?

DON'T SAY THIS IS THE END.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE HONEST.

KLINK

チャリ

"HUMANS ARE DOOMED TO MAKE WAR, SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET RID OF IT."

I ONCE BELIEVED IN THAT PARADOXICAL STATEMENT, BUT WHAT ENDED UP ENLIGHTEN-ING ME...

...WAS YOU— SOMEONE WHO CAN ONLY SAY WHAT THEY REALLY FEEL THROUGH LIES.

...UNTIL IT BECOMES ELEMENTARY.

EXPLAIN ALL THOSE LIES ABOUT YOUR DREAMS...

...WHO'S THE IDIOT WHO SAID SUCH A CRINGEY LINE...

...IN SUCH A LOUD VOICE?

LET'S GET RID OF...

...ALL THE WORLD'S WARS!

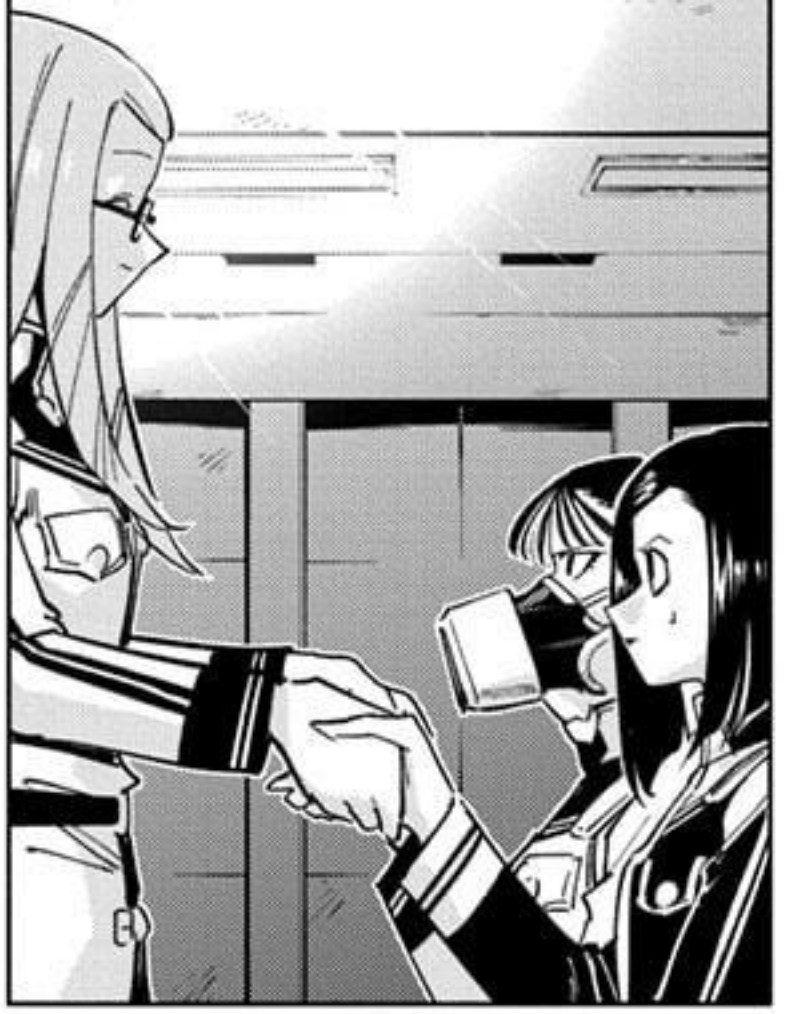
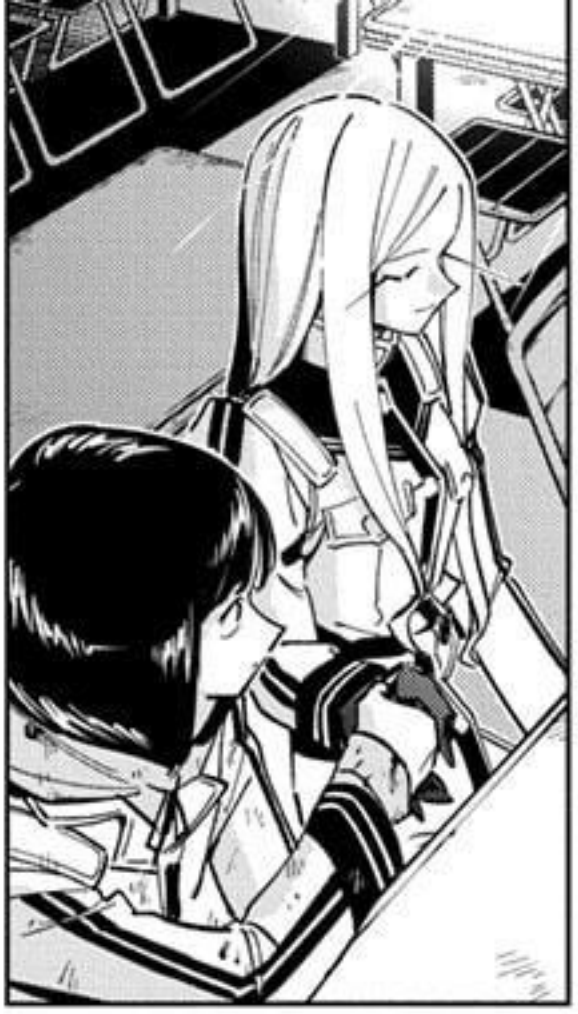


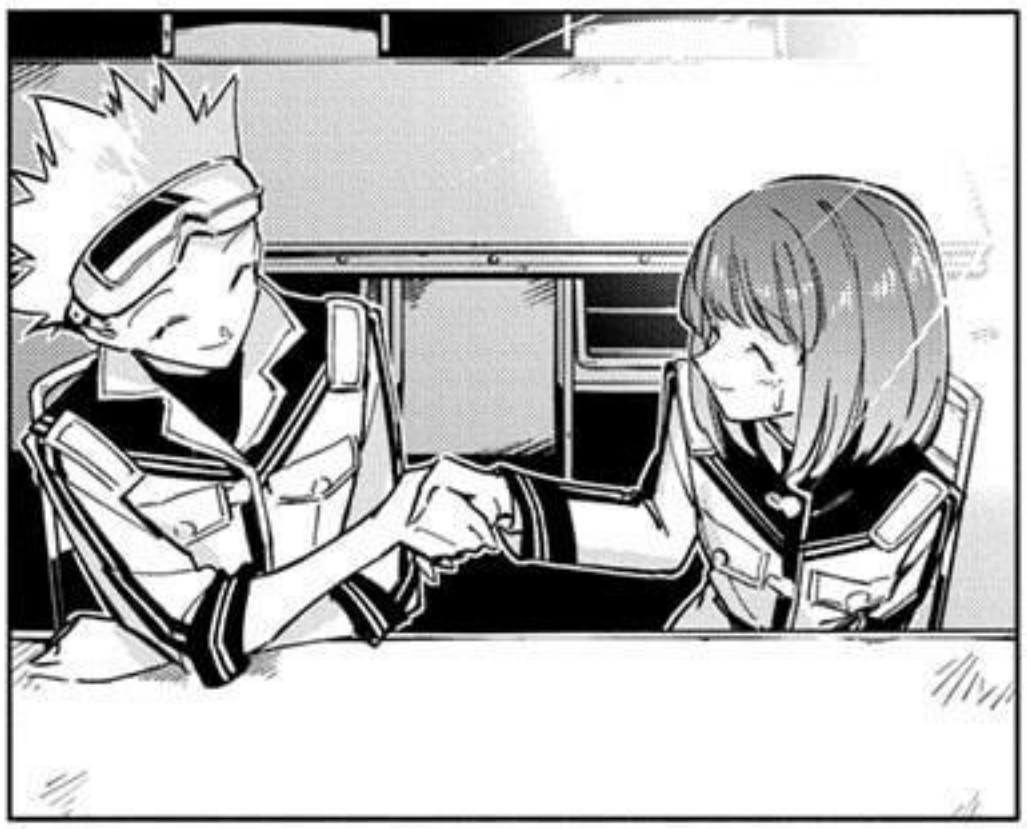


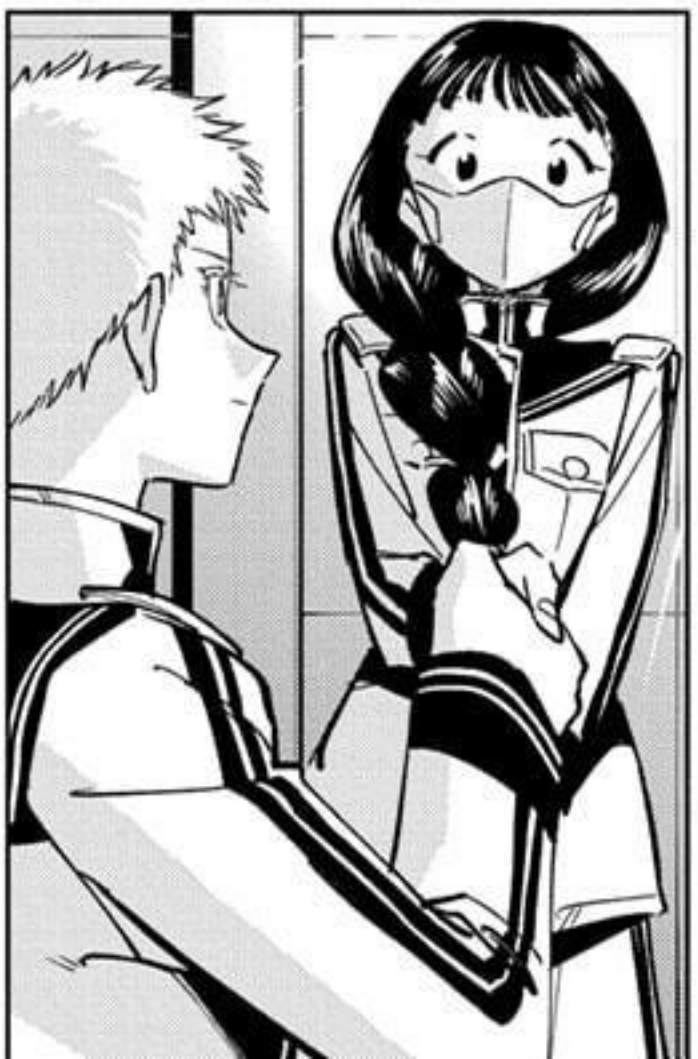


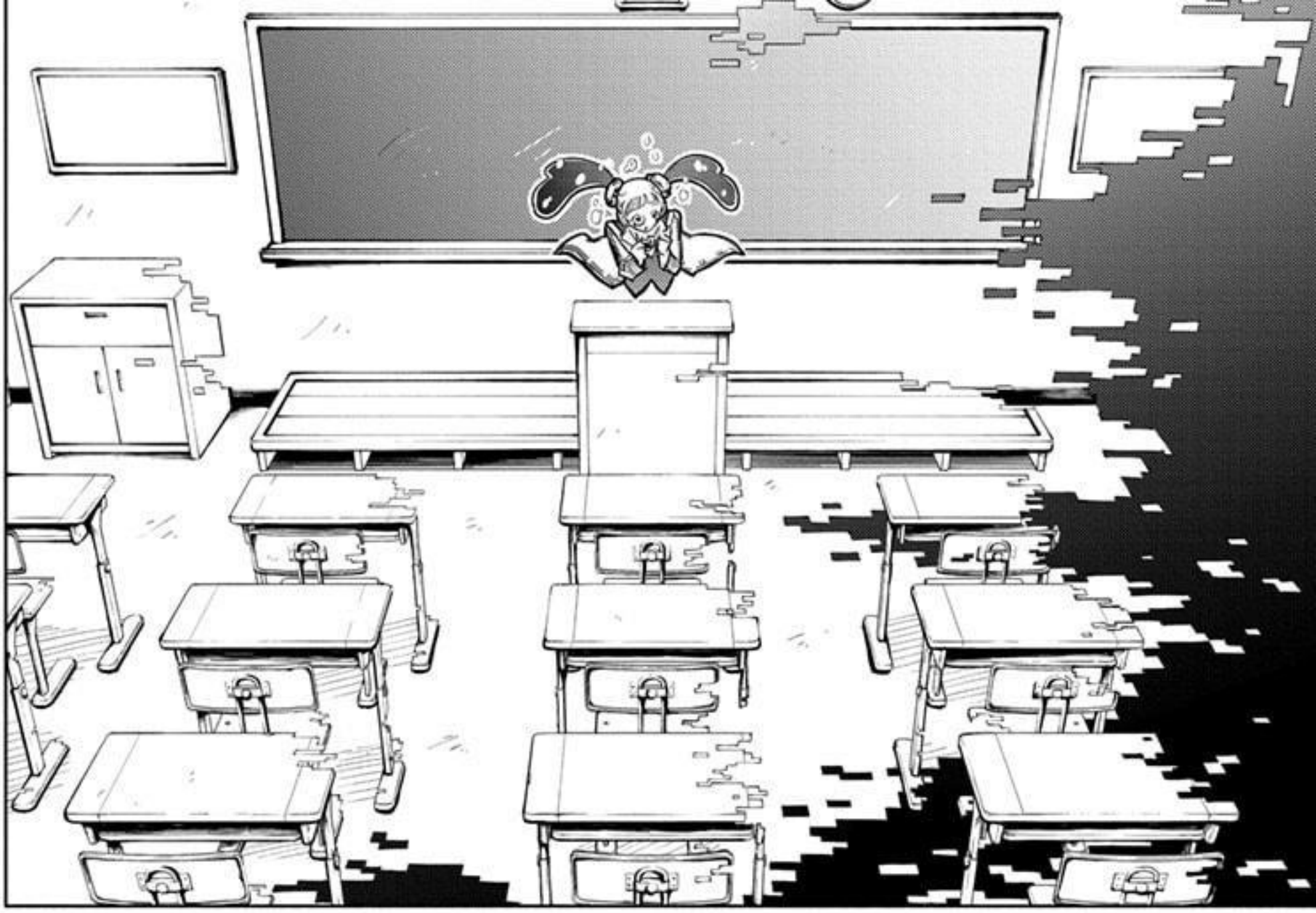












End-of-Service Announcement

The Cipher Academy Metaverse
has met a rude end.
Thank you for your patronage.



To be continued!

...WE WERE UNABLE TO STOP ALL WARS.

...DESPITE THE 50 BILLION MORGUE OF WAR-DAMAGE CRYPTO-CURRENCY...

IN CONCLUSION ...

SHF

LUCKILY, HOWEVER, AND PERHAPS SINCE WE USED IT IN SUCH A USELESS WAY...

...WE WERE ABLE TO AVOID THE INFLATION THAT HAKANAGE-SAN HAD BEEN WORRIED ABOUT.

...OUR ANTI-WAR BATTLE...

...IS STILL IN ITS ELEMENTARY STAGE.

WE WEREN'T EVEN ABLE TO STOP HALF THE WORLD'S WARS... ONE OUT OF 50 AT BEST. IN OTHER WORDS...

CHAPTER 18 ACADEMY

Final Chapter: As Long as It Ends Well, It's All Good

Story by Nisioisin
Art by Yuji Iwasaki
Translation: Dan Luffey
Lettering: Steve Dutro

Adjutant Emperor
Class 3-A
Yukako Omomuro

Devil's Advocate
Class 3-A
Tayu Yugata

First Code Emperor
Class 3-A
Kyora Toshusai

REPORT IN, EVERYONE.

WE'VE STILL GOT A BUTTLOAD OF WORK TO DO, SO MAKE IT QUICK.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE REFORM IS GOING WELL, RIGHT?

I'VE LOST CONTACT WITH SUNKA, WHO INFILTRATED OUR HOMELAND ALONG WITH SOBORO.

YEAH. IF THINGS GET DANGEROUS, I THINK I'LL DEPLOY BYU.

Academy Adviser
Class 3-E
Shitai Kubinashi

PERMISSION GRANTED. WHAT ABOUT SALVAGING THE UNSINKABLE AIRCRAFT CARRIER?

AS SOON AS THE COMMUNICATION WE INTERCEPTED THE OTHER DAY IS DECODED, I'LL SHARE IT WITH THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY.

HA HA HA! THAT'S A PRIVATE MATTER. WE'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO DO, BUT ZAKUROGUCHI-SAN AND I ARE GOING TO KEEP WORKING HARD.

Academy General
Class 3-A
Rokaku Yosaimura

THANK YOU. JUST MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR STUDIES.

THINGS ARE TENSE IN THE PRECAUTION AREA WITHIN THE DIGITAL SPACE RIGHT NOW. WE'RE INVESTIGATING IT WITH THE NSA!

AYE, AYE, SIR. OUR CONFIDENTIAL *DEKIAI-CHAN* APP IS REALLY COMING IN HANDY!

Class Leading Private and Grade-Wide Leader (Third-Years)
Class 3-A
Harukiri Botayama

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR. I CAN ONLY PRAY THAT HER SURVIVAL ABILITY WILL DISAPPEAR ALTOGETHER NOW.

YES. THE THREE FROM THE INFORMATION SCRAMBLING CLASS WILL HANDLE THE POST-TREATMENT.

WE WERE ABLE TO AVOID TOGENANA-FUSHIGI'S PREMONITION ABOUT GLOBAL AFFAIRS AGAIN.

Academy Chief of Staff
Class 3-C
Invalides Yonakiuguisu

I EXPECTED NO LESS OF YOU. DON'T TALK ABOUT IT TOO LOUDLY, THOUGH...

SPEAKING OF MANGA, I DID SOME HACKING AND MANAGED TO CRUSH THAT *CHEER ON THE METAVERSE INSTEAD* PARODY MANGA THAT WAS BEING SERIALIZED IN A (DIGITAL) TRASHY MAGAZINE.

BUT THE SAFETY LEVEL OF THE GLASSES WEAPONS IS THE ONE THING THAT WON'T GO UP, NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS I WORK ON IT...

JUST STOP DEVELOPING THEM ALREADY.

Observer
Class 3-M
Kogoe Horagatoge

CONGRATULATIONS. I'LL HAVE TO READ IT. CAN YOU GIVE ME YOUR OPERATIONAL REPORT, NON-NON?

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. RAINSU-ROTTO'S GOING TO RELEASE HER DEBUT WEBTOON.

YOROKAWA HAS ORDERED MORE RICE HANDOUTS. NAMASU DID A FEW THINGS HERE AND THERE TO SETTLE THE MATTER.

Head of the Board of Directors
Class 3-A
Iesuno Nohime

IN THE END IT ALL COMES DOWN TO PILING UP LITTLE STEPS. AT THIS RATE...

...THE FIRST'S WISHES, WHICH WE COULDN'T HAVE FULFILLED NO MATTER HOW MUCH EXTRA MONEY WE POURED INTO IT...

...MIGHT JUST BARELY START TO COME TRUE IN OUR GENERATION.

I ALSO HAVE ONE POINT TO BRING UP. WE'VE MANAGED TO COLLECT 43 PERCENT OF THE TOY GUNS SO FAR.

WE'RE ALSO WORKING ON PUTTING THE CHILDREN WHO WERE SLAVES INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.

THAT'S GOOD. THIS IS ALL THANKS TO THE DOCUMENTS THAT MY KOTTON ACQUIRED IN CLASS E TWO YEARS AGO.

KEEP WORKING WITH SHITAI ON THIS. HOWEVER...

IT WAS THANKS TO ALL THAT EXTRA CASH THAT WE GATHERED UP IN THE FIRST PLACE, RIGHT?

AND WHAT'S MORE...

...IF ANYONE OTHER THAN HIM HAD GOTTEN IN, WE WOULDN'T BE HAVING THESE MEETINGS NOW.

EVEN THOUGH IT MAY HAVE BEEN AN UNOFFICIAL VIRTUAL SPACE, IN THAT MOMENT...

...HE HAD CLEARLY BECOME THE CODE EMPEROR.

YOUNG MISS...

I'M THE *SECOND*.

YES, TAYUTAN. AND RIGHT NOW, THE TOP STUDENT FROM TRENCH ACADEMY...

...WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED ONE YEAR BEFORE—

FWP

THAT REMINDS ME, KYO...

ER...

THE MEETUP DAY FOR THE GROUP OPERATION IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, RIGHT?

OH, WASURE-NAGUSA-SAN, GOOD AFTERNOON.

WE'RE ALREADY AT THAT TIME OF YEAR? THIS IS A PROBLEM...

IT'S OKAY, KYORA-SAN! I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH EVERYONE WHO'S OUTSIDE TRAINING.

I'LL USE THE COMMUNICATION SATELLITE I SENT UP A LONG TIME AGO... ITS RANGE IS LIMITLESS.

FWP

GREETINGS, COUNCIL MEMBERS!

I HAVE COME TO REQUEST YOUR SUPERVISION OF THE MATERIALS THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO BE USED IN THE GRADUATION ALBUM!

Grade-Wide Leader (First-Year) and Photography Club Member
Class 1-A
Waon Wasurenagusa
(Previously known as the Battlefield Dancer)

...THAT HE MUSTERED THE COURAGE TO SEE HER...

IT'S ONLY BECAUSE HE WAS ABLE TO SAVE YOU...

I THINK HE'S PROBABLY MORE THANKFUL TO YOU.

I ESPECIALLY OWE A GREAT DEAL TO RIKUKEITO-SHI AND KARIGANE-SHI...

...AND I COULD CERTAINLY NEVER THANK *HIM* ENOUGH!

THANK YOU! I ALREADY OWE YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH!

NOT ONLY DID YOU SAVE ME FROM CERTAIN DOOM, BUT YOU EVEN GAVE ME A NAME...


ZANGO
UNI

AND YOU ARE?

AMVICIOUS YONAKIUGUISU!

IROHA FROM CIPHER ACADEMY!

Q.126

Difficulty: ★★★★★★★

RATATATATAT

BOOM... BOOM... BAM

OHHH! IT'S BEEN A WHILE! I'M GLAD WE RAN INTO EACH OTHER AGAIN!

SO, WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?

HOW WOULD A CIPHER SOLDIER PUT AN END TO THIS AWFUL CONFLICT?

VROOM

I'LL DRAW...

...MY DREAM...

...WITH A PENCIL AND PAPER!

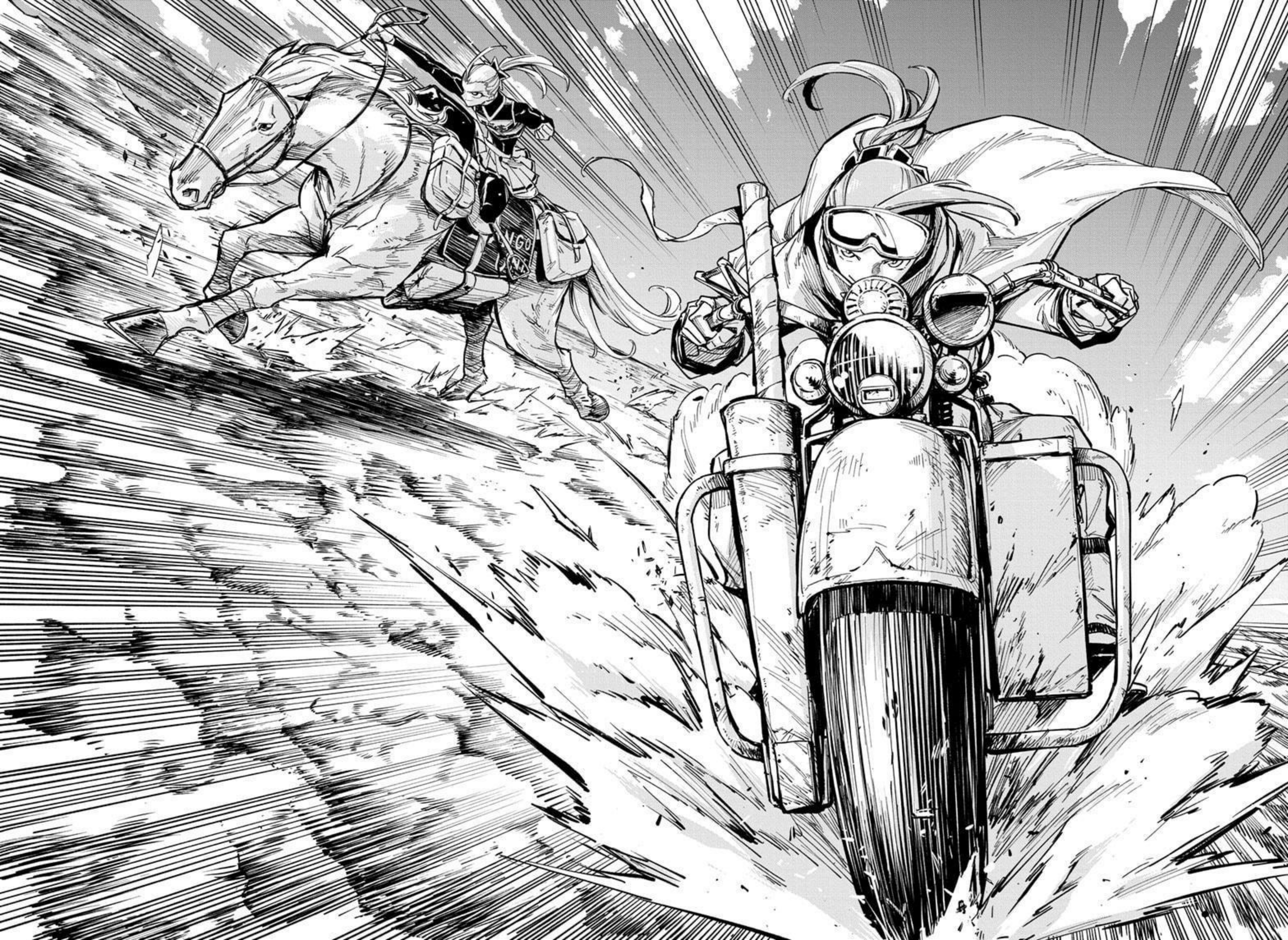
Cipher Academy Foot Soldier
Class 3-A
Iroha Irohazaka

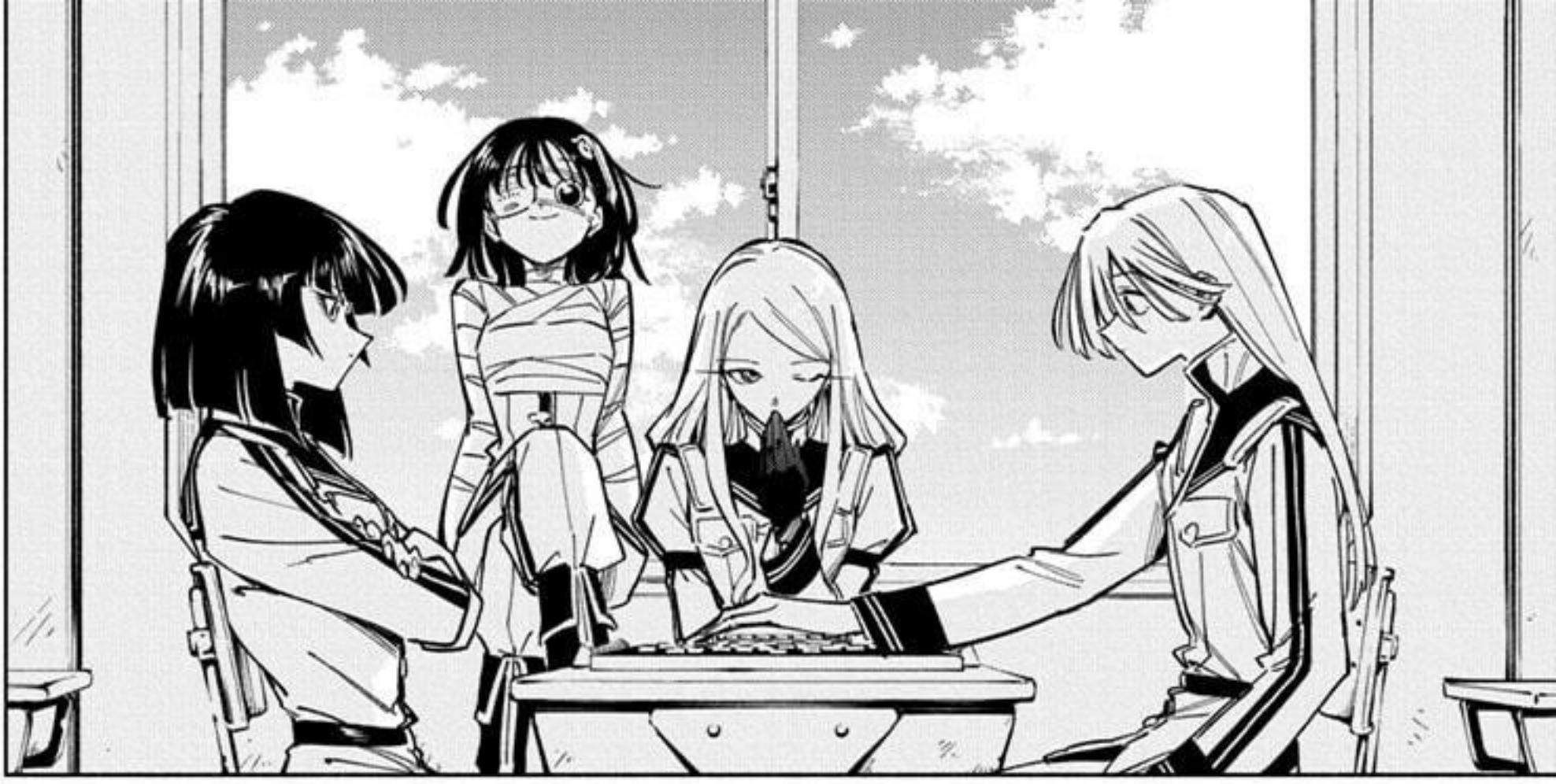
GRRP...

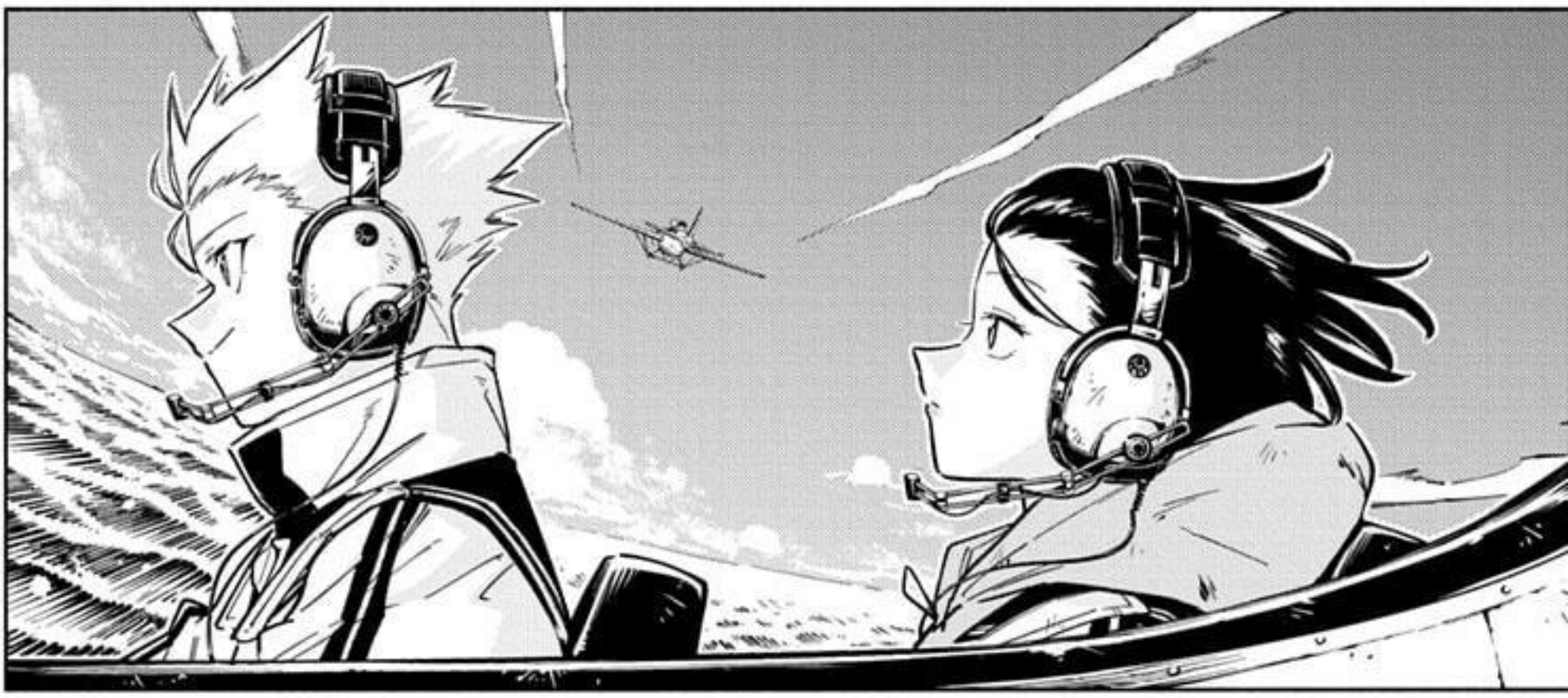
SOUNDS GOOD. THEN I'LL...

...SING AND DANCE...

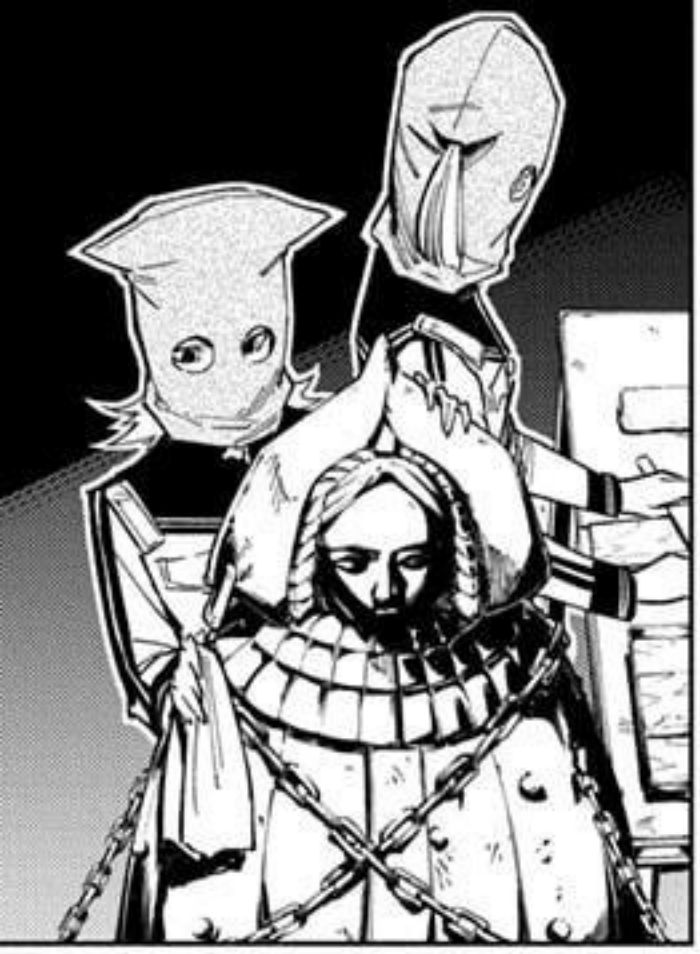
...AND CHEER YOU ON!











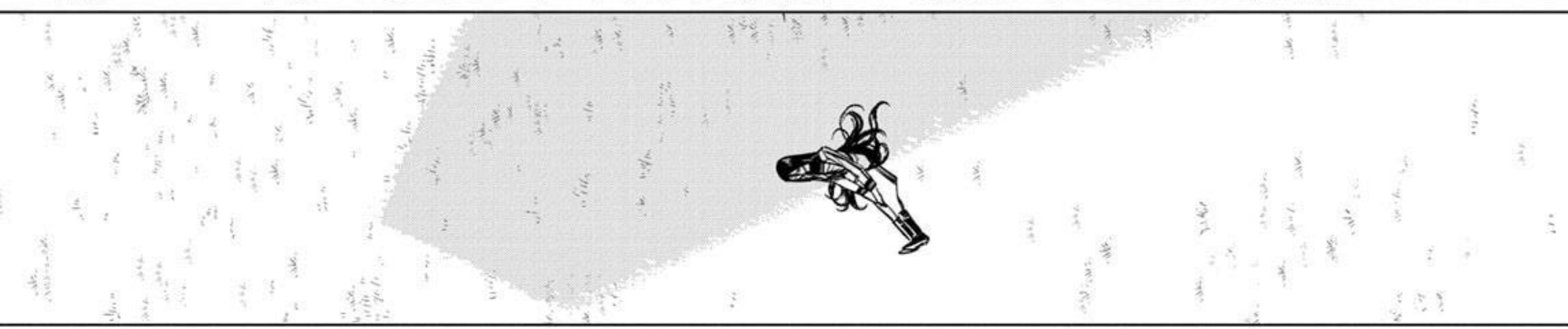








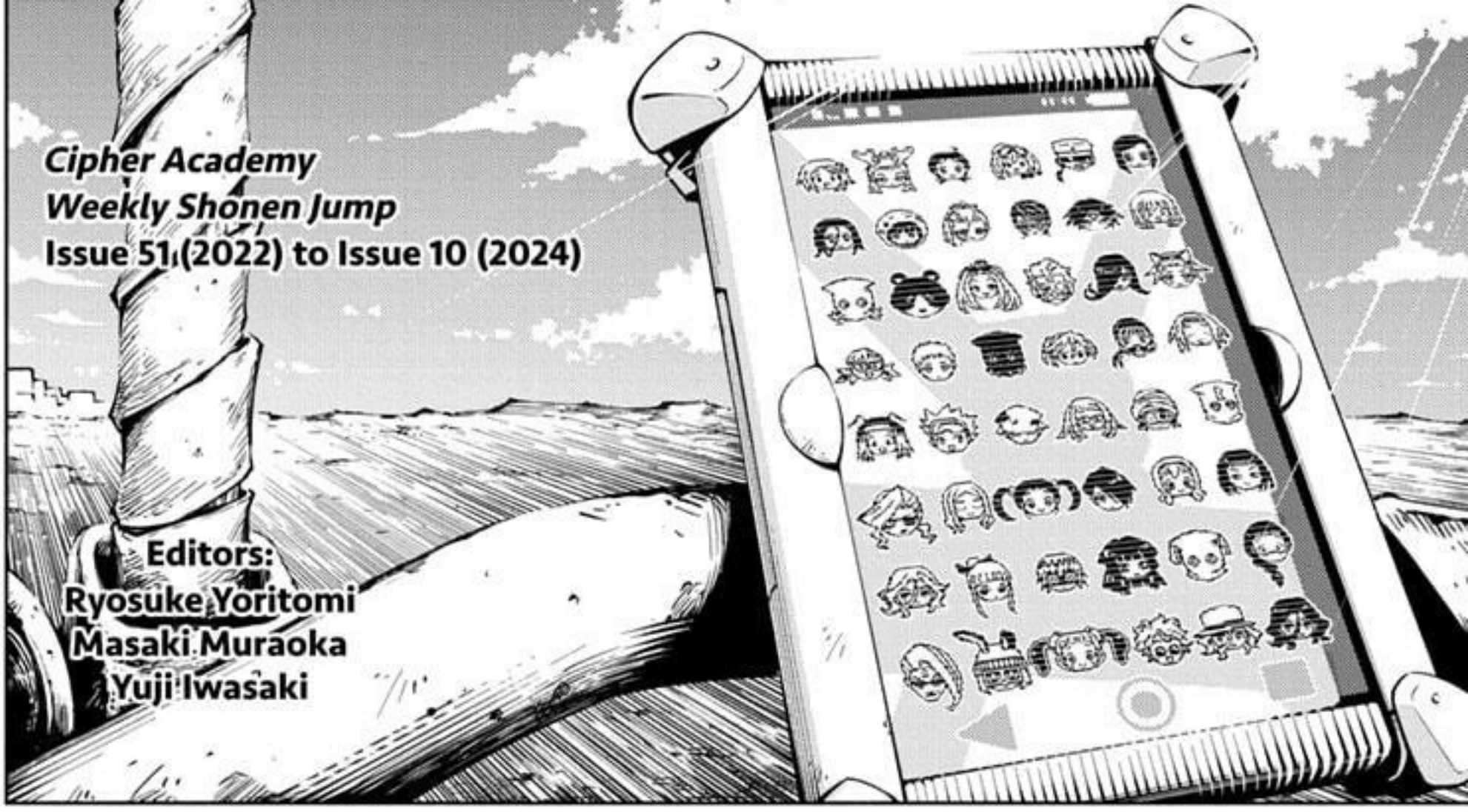


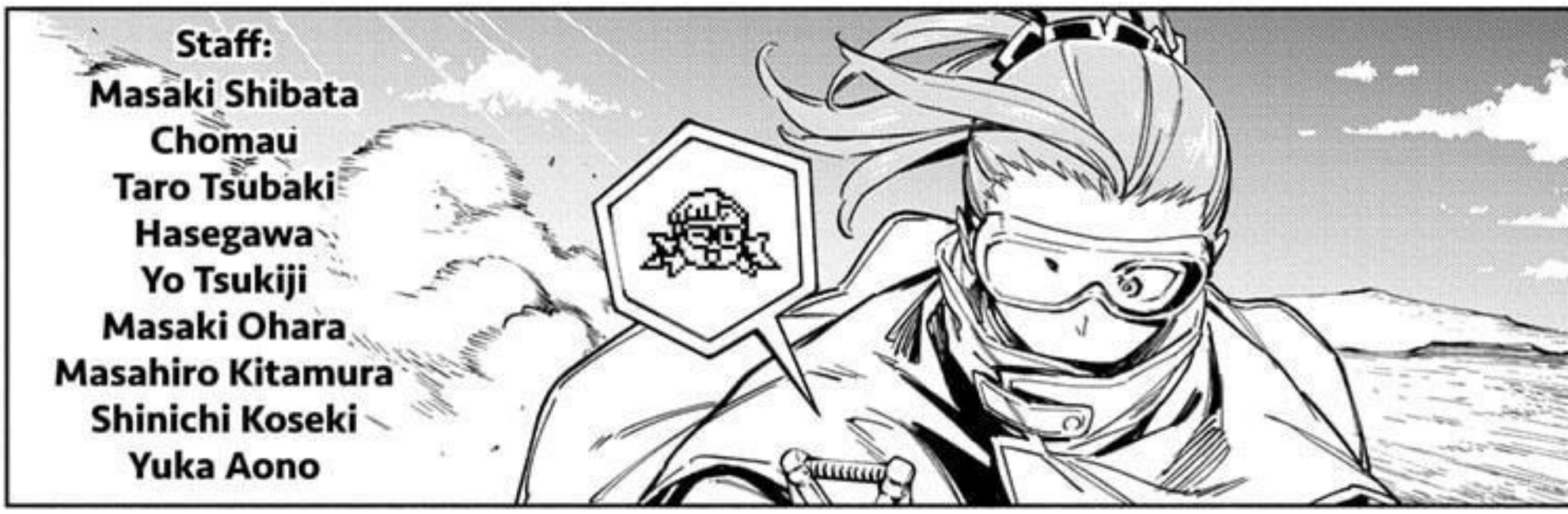













Special Thanks

To everyone who cheered on *Cipher Academy*...

May all the wars end in your worlds as well!



I SEE GOALED READING!

The End!